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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022

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NEARBY

SSLC exam results to be out on May 19

MYSURU

Results of the SSLC exam for 2021-22 in Karnataka will be announced on May 19, Minister B.C. Nagesh told mediapersons in Madikeri on May 13. About 8.7 lakh students had appeared for the exams conducted between March 28 and April 11 by the Karnataka State Secondary Education Examination Board.

HSRP only for vehicles registered after April 2019

BENGALURU

The Transport Department and city traffic police division have clarified that High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) is not must for vehicles registered prior to April 2019.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 9

HDK to undertake State-wide rath yatra

BENGALURU

Blowing the poll bugle ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections, JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy on Friday announced that he would undertake a State-wide rath yatra after June.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 10

PROPERTYPLUS ▸ PAGES 4 & 5

Congress plans massive organisational overhaul

Party mulls 'one family, one ticket' rule with a rider

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
UDAIPUR

A "one family, one ticket" rule, restrictions on successive tenures for office-bearers and a "50 under 50" rule to ensure that half the party posts are given to people under 50 years of age are among the major organisational changes that the Congress is all set to bring about after the three-day *Nav Sankalp chintan shivir* that began on Friday.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi, in her address, stressed that the party was in dire need of a change in its style of functioning.

The "one family, one ticket" rule, however, will come with a rider as it seeks to grant exemption to another family member who has been working in the party for five years and doing "exemplary work".

This could, effectively, mean that members of the Gandhi family such as Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is yet to contest an election, would be exempted as she has been a party member for several years.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 14

Way forward: Congress president Sonia Gandhi speaking at the *Nav Sankalp chintan shivir* in Udaipur on Friday. • PTI

Modi has kept nation polarised, says Sonia

SANDEEP PHUKAN
UDAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's philosophy of "maximum governance and minimum government" translates into keeping the country in a permanent state of polarisation, "brutalising" the minorities and targeting political opponents, Congress president Sonia Gandhi said on Friday.

Inaugurating the three-day *Nav Sankalp chintan shivir* at Udaipur, Ms. Gandhi said "extraordinary circumstances call for extraordinary actions", and called upon her party colleagues to repay their debt to the party by putting the organisation above their personal ambitions.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 14

REPORT FROM PAST EXERCISE TUCKED AWAY ▸ PAGE 15

Will examine Gyanvapi case for listing: CJI

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Friday said he would examine and consider listing a plea to stop the inspection, survey and videography of premises inside the Gyanvyapi mosque in Varanasi by an advocate commissioner on the orders of a local court.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, the caretakers of the mosque, requested the court for an urgent listing of their case seeking an order of status quo.

"How can I pass orders now? I will read and then pass orders. We will see and list it," the CJI addressed Mr. Ahmadi.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 14

Twitter deal on hold: Musk

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Tesla founder Elon Musk said on Friday he was putting a temporary halt on his much-anticipated $44-billion deal to buy Twitter.

Mr. Musk had made the eradication of spam accounts and bots one of the centrepieces of the deal. "Twitter deal temporarily on hold pending details supporting calculation that spam/fake accounts do indeed represent less than 5% of users," he tweeted. Two hours later, he tweeted that he was "still committed to acquisition".

SC declines to stay J&K delimitation report

Court, however, asks Centre to file affidavit on the exercise

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Centre to file an affidavit responding to a challenge to the delimitation exercise undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir following the withdrawal of special status granted to the State under Article 370 and its subsequent bifurcation.

However, the court did not accept an oral plea made by petitioners to stay the tabling of the final draft report of the Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission in Parliament.

"Can we restrain them from tabling it in the Parliament? If that is so, why did you take two years to challenge the delimitation notification," a Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul asked the petitioners, Haji Abdul Gani Khan and Mohammad Ayub Mattoo, represented by senior advocate Ravi Shankar Jandhyala and advocates Sriram Parakkat and M.S. Vishnu Shankar.

> Why did you [petitioners] take two years to challenge the delimitation notification?.. Are you challenging the report or the formation of the commission? You have come after the report has been filed
>
> JUSTICE SANJAY KISHAN KAUL
> Supreme Court

The three-member Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission led by a former Supreme Court judge, Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, submitted the final draft report early in May, notifying the new boundaries, names and number of Assembly seats, paving the way for the first Assembly election in the Union Territory. "Are you challenging the report or the formation of the commission...? You have come after the report has been filed," Justice Kaul addressed Mr. Jandhyala.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 14

27 dead in massive fire in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

At least 27 persons were killed and 12 injured when a massive fire broke out in a four-storey commercial building near the Mundka metro station in Delhi's Outer district on Friday evening, the police said.

DCP (Outer) Sameer Sharma said 50 persons had been rescued so far. The building had office spaces for several companies and the fire broke out on the first floor, which housed a company that manufactured CCTV cameras and routers. The company owners Harish Goel and Varun Goel have been detained. Mr. Sharma said the windows of the building had to be broken to rescue people. The police said some people were still trapped in the building.

Deadly inferno: Firefighters battling the blaze at a building near the Mundka metro station in Delhi on Friday. • PTI

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 14

Acid attacker arrested from Tamil Nadu after 16 days

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

After being on the run for 16 days, the man who threw acid on a 25-year-old girl who spurned his overtures, was arrested from Tamil Nadu on Friday. Nagesh Babu was arrested from Sri Ramanasramam in Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu, where he had joined a programme, police sources said.

Nagesh had thrown acid on the woman on April 28 at her workplace. The victim suffered nearly 30% burns and is recovering at a hospital. She has been operated upon twice and is in ICU, but is stable.

He had fled from the scene and despite a massive manhunt being launched, had remained elusive. The police recovered his mobile and bike that he had abandoned on the city's outskirts. He cut off all contact with his family and friends and turned out to be a tough nut to crack, the police said.

"Talking to his friends and family, we had a lead that he would favour religious destinations. Our teams had been to Tiruvannamalai earlier as well, but returned empty-handed. But on Friday, enquiries in the temple town achieved a breakthrough," said Sanjeev Patil, DCP (West). It is not yet known when he checked into the ashram.

• GETTY IMAGES

Can the Mercedes juggernaut course-correct after careening off its rails?

The team's approach to F1's radical rules change was completely different to the rest of the pack. But after five poor races, there are questions about whether it has gone down the wrong route with its innovative approach

S. DIPAK RAGAV

Continuous domination of a sport by a player or team is a fascinating phenomenon to observe and study. Long streaks of excellence make for exhilarating viewing, but they can turn boring, too.

Formula One has had its share of such streaks, starting with Juan Manuel Fangio winning four consecutive titles in the 1950s. The first five years of the 2000s witnessed the pre-eminence of Michael Schumacher and Ferrari.

But F1 is unique because with constant changes in the technical regulations, a successful team can trip up, going from a championship-winning car one year to an also-ran the next. So to sustain a long streak, a lot of factors need to align.

Over the last eight years, Mercedes has dominated the sport, winning eight constructors' championships and seven drivers' titles from 2014 to 2021.

In 2014, F1 embarked on a new path, switching from naturally-aspirated engines to complex turbo-charged hybrid power units. It was the sort of big regulation change that gives teams the opportunity to jump ahead and seize the moment or – conversely – falter and fall behind.

In 2014, right from pre-season testing, Mercedes was head and shoulders above the rest of the pack. It had the most powerful engine, which powered it to three straight titles without any competition.

The team managed to keep its lead despite a big aero change in 2017 and a smaller shake-up in 2019, fending off competition from Ferrari in 2017 and 2018.

It was only in 2021 that the team faced a formidable challenge, from Red Bull, but still managed to win the constructors' title. And if it wasn't for some dubious stewarding from race director Michael Massi, Lewis Hamilton may well have won an eighth drivers' title.

Ahead of the 2022 season, F1 unveiled its latest regulatory change. It fundamentally changed the aerodynamic concept of the last decade in a bid to help cars follow each other more closely and allow for better racing.

I'd say this era of car is the worst for 'porpoising' that I've ever experienced... it's like a rattlesnake! We'll keep on chipping away. So much amazing work is going on in the background. Unfortunately, I don't think we are necessarily moving forwards at the rate we would like to

LEWIS HAMILTON

A roadblock

Finally, after eight years of dominance, it appears as if the Mercedes juggernaut has hit a roadblock, at least for now. It was evident from the two pre-season tests that the team was struggling to extract performance from its car. Over the first five races, this evidence has only grown.

With just 95 points, Mercedes is 62 behind leader Ferrari in the constructors' standings, with just two podiums so far, one each for Hamilton and George Russell.

The new F1 rules have emphasised generating downforce from the car's underbody, with the floor playing a crucial role in it through an aerodynamic phenomenon known as 'ground effect'.

The downforce produced this way is more stable when following a car closely unlike the downforce generated by a complex front wing which loses its efficiency when running behind another car.

Mercedes, though, has been suffering from 'porpoising', in which the car appears to bounce wildly on track, affecting performance.

'Porpoising' is one of the unintended consequences of the new rules.

With the 'ground effect', the ride height of the car is run as close to the ground as possible to maximise the downforce.

However, as the speed builds up and the downforce increases, the car is pushed towards the ground and at one point, it gets too close to the ground, stalling the airflow.

At this point, the car loses downforce and the ride height increases until such a point that the airflow re-attaches and starts to produce downforce again. This makes the car look like it's bouncing on the track and it hurts the overall lap time.

Although most teams have this problem, Mercedes has struggled the most and is experiencing it even in corners, unlike other teams which mostly have to deal with it only on the straights.

In Bahrain, during the second pre-season test, the reigning champion made heads turn when it unveiled a revised, sleek-looking car that had smaller sidepods – sidepod-less, some described it – something not seen in recent years.

Dealing with 'porpoising'

Mercedes' car looked distinct from the rest, but after five races, there are questions about whether the team has gone down the wrong route with its innovative approach.

While the team management continues to believe in the concept, based on the numbers seen during wind tunnel testing and with simulation tools, it has not translated into performance on the track.

The 'porpoising' issue has forced Mercedes to run a higher ride height, which means it is sacrificing downforce and lap time to achieve a more stable car.

Mercedes believes that if it can find a solution, allowing use of the ideal setting instead of the compromise it has been forced into, the car has the potential to be at the sharp end of the grid.

The team has been at its wit's end after not being able to identify the reasons behind why the car is 'porpoising' even at lower speeds.

We're still learning, still trying to understand the car, it's bouncing around a lot. I've not been overly comfortable in the car... It's how you deal with those difficult moments, how you pull through. Success is great. But failure is sort of necessary

GEORGE RUSSELL

But even with all these troubles, Mercedes is the third fastest team on race day, if not in qualifying as well, but well adrift of Ferrari and Red Bull, with Max Verstappen even lapping Hamilton at Imola.

The seven-time champion seems resigned to the fact that his chances are not looking bright and said after the Miami GP, where his team brought upgrades, that the pace hasn't improved since the start of the season.

Now with five races done, and its drivers well behind leader Charles Leclerc, Mercedes has a decision to make on how long it wants to stick to its current concept.

The next race in Barcelona will give the team a chance to evaluate the true potential of the car as it is one of the tracks that is used extensively for testing, thanks to its mix of flowing, high-speed corners and twisty, low-speed corners.

Importantly it could give the team a direction to help determine whether to keep developing this year's car or switch focus to next year. The big teams like Mercedes are often used to spending their way out of trouble but the recently enacted budget cap means it is no longer so easy to do that.

Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff was quoted in the Guardian as saying, "We have stayed committed to the current concept, we are faithful to the current concept. Before we make a decision on switching to another concept we need to understand where this one went wrong. What is the good and what is the bad? I would be asking for an answer after Barcelona and then we have to look ourselves in the mirror and ask: 'Did we get it wrong or not?'"

Its sternest test

After eight years of dominance, Mercedes faces its sternest test since taking over Brawn GP in 2010. While the 2014 rule changes enabled its ascent to the top, it was an outcome of a gradual rise from one win in 2012 to three wins in 2013 before the start of a dream run.

The team is known for being methodical in the way it approaches its racing, with a 'no blame culture' that has delivered unprecedented success.

So while it would be foolish to bet against Mercedes turning things around, not many neutrals would mind the Silver Arrows' struggles.

Maybe Hamilton charging from behind later in the season in his quest for an eighth world title could make for an even more compelling season.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Novak Djokovic	34	8,260	13
2	Daniil Medvedev	26	7,980	21
3	Alexander Zverev	25	7,020	22
4	Rafael Nadal	35	6,435	10
5	Stefanos Tsitsipas	23	5,750	25
6	Carlos Alcaraz	19	4,773	20
7	Andrey Rublev	24	4,115	26
8	Matteo Berrettini	26	3,895	18
9	Felix Auger-Aliassime	21	3,760	27
10	Casper Ruud	23	3,760	28
11	Cameron Norrie	26	3,380	27
12	Hubert Hurkacz	25	3,130	27
13	Jannik Sinner	20	3,060	30
14	Taylor Fritz	24	2,965	28
15	Diego Schwartzman	29	2,760	25

Top Indians ▸

Ramkumar Ramanathan
Rank 179 ▲6 spots

Prajnesh Gunneswaran
Rank 268 ▲▼ NO CHANGE

WTA Women's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Iga Swiatek	20	7,061	17
2	Barbora Krejcikova	26	5,011	19
3	Paula Badosa	24	4,720	27
4	Maria Sakkari	26	4,596	18
5	Anett Kontaveit	26	4,446	21
6	Karolina Pliskova	30	4,152	16
7	Ons Jabeur	27	3,895	19
8	Aryna Sabalenka	24	3,721	20
9	Danielle Collins	28	3,211	18
10	Garbine Muguruza	28	3,135	18
11	Jessica Pegula	28	3,040	20
12	Emma Raducanu	19	2,914	22
13	Jelena Ostapenko	24	2,725	19
14	Belinda Bencic	25	2,486	19
15	Coco Gauff	18	2,410	19

Top Indians ▸

Ankita Raina
Rank 335 ▼ 13 spots

Karman Thandi
Rank 447 ▲▼ NO CHANGE

English Premier League Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Man. City	36	28	5	3	94	22	72	89
2	Liverpool	36	26	8	2	89	24	65	86
3	Chelsea	36	20	10	6	73	31	42	70
4	Arsenal	36	21	3	12	56	45	11	66
5	Tottenham	36	20	5	11	63	40	23	65
6	Man. United	37	16	10	11	57	56	1	58
7	West Ham	36	16	7	13	57	46	11	55
8	Wolves	36	15	5	16	36	39	-3	50
9	Brighton	36	11	14	11	38	42	-4	47
10	Leicester City	35	12	9	14	52	56	-4	45
11	Crystal Palace	35	10	14	11	46	42	4	44
12	Aston Villa	35	13	4	18	48	49	-1	43
13	Brentford	36	12	7	17	44	52	-8	43
14	Newcastle	36	11	10	15	40	61	-21	43
15	Southampton	36	9	13	14	41	61	-20	40
16	Everton	35	10	6	19	37	56	-19	36
17	Burnley	35	7	13	15	32	49	-17	34
18	Leeds United	36	8	10	18	39	77	-38	34
19	Watford	36	6	5	25	32	70	-38	23
20	Norwich City	36	5	6	25	22	78	-56	21

Italian Serie A Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	AC Milan	36	24	8	4	64	31	33	80
2	Inter Milan	36	23	9	4	78	31	47	78
3	Napoli	36	22	7	7	68	31	37	73
4	Juventus	36	20	9	7	55	33	22	69
5	Lazio	36	18	8	10	72	53	19	62
6	Roma	36	17	8	11	55	42	13	59
7	Fiorentina	36	18	5	13	56	47	9	59
8	Atalanta	36	16	11	9	65	45	20	59
9	Verona	36	14	10	12	62	55	7	52
10	Torino	36	12	11	13	45	38	7	47
11	Sassuolo	36	12	11	13	61	62	-1	47
12	Udinese	36	10	14	12	55	55	0	44
13	Bologna	36	11	10	15	42	52	-10	43
14	Empoli	36	9	10	17	48	69	-21	37
15	Sampdoria	36	9	6	21	42	59	-17	33
16	Spezia	36	9	6	21	38	66	-28	33
17	Salernitana	36	7	9	20	32	73	-41	30
18	Cagliari	36	6	11	19	33	65	-32	29
19	Genoa	36	4	16	16	27	56	-29	28
20	Venezia	36	6	7	23	33	68	-35	25

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Real Madrid	36	26	6	4	79	30	49	84
2	Barcelona	36	21	9	6	68	36	32	72
3	Atletico Madrid	36	20	7	9	62	41	21	67
4	Sevilla	36	17	15	4	51	29	22	66
5	Real Betis	36	18	7	11	60	40	20	61
6	Real Sociedad	36	16	11	9	37	34	3	59
7	Villarreal	36	15	11	10	60	35	25	56
8	Athletic Bilbao	36	13	13	10	41	35	6	52
9	Osasuna	36	12	11	13	37	47	-10	47
10	Valencia	36	10	14	12	45	52	-7	44
11	Celta Vigo	36	11	10	15	42	41	1	43
12	Rayo Vallecano	36	11	9	16	36	44	-8	42
13	Espanyol	36	10	10	16	39	52	-13	40
14	Elche	36	10	9	17	37	50	-13	39
15	Getafe	36	8	14	14	32	38	-6	38
16	Granada	36	8	13	15	44	59	-15	37
17	Cadiz	36	7	14	15	33	50	-17	35
18	Real Mallorca	36	8	9	19	32	62	-30	33
19	Alaves	36	8	7	21	30	61	-31	31
20	Levante	36	6	11	19	44	73	-29	29

German Bundesliga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	33	24	4	5	95	35	60	76
2	Dortmund	33	21	3	9	83	51	32	66
3	Leverkusen	33	18	7	8	78	46	32	61
4	RB Leipzig	33	17	6	10	71	36	35	57
5	SC Freiburg	33	15	10	8	57	44	13	55
6	Union Berlin	33	15	9	9	47	42	5	54
7	Cologne	33	14	10	9	51	47	4	52
8	Hoffenheim	33	13	7	13	57	55	2	46
9	Mainz	33	13	6	14	48	43	5	45
10	M'gladbach	33	11	9	13	49	60	-11	42
11	Bochum	33	12	6	15	36	49	-13	42
12	Eintracht	33	10	11	12	43	47	-4	41
13	Wolfsburg	33	12	5	16	41	52	-11	41
14	FC Augsburg	33	9	8	16	37	55	-18	35
15	Hertha Berlin	33	9	6	18	36	69	-33	33
16	Stuttgart	33	6	12	15	39	58	-19	30
17	Arminia	33	5	12	16	26	52	-26	27
18	Greuther Furth	33	3	9	21	27	80	-53	18

Test Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Marnus Labuschagne	892	936
2	Steve Smith	845	947
3	Kane Williamson	844	919
4	Joe Root	843	917
5	Babar Azam	815	815
6	Dimuth Karunaratne	781	781
7	Usman Khawaja	757	757
8	Rohit Sharma	754	813
9	Travis Head	744	773
10	Virat Kohli	742	937

Test Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Pat Cummins	901	914
2	R. Ashwin	850	904
3	Jasprit Bumrah	830	835
4	Shaheen Afridi	827	827
5	Kyle Jamieson	820	825
6	Kagiso Rabada	818	902
7	Tim Southee	790	839
8	Neil Wagner	777	859
9	James Anderson	765	903
10	Josh Hazlewood	752	863

ODI Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	891	891
2	Virat Kohli	811	911
3	Imam-ul-Haq	795	795
4	Rohit Sharma	791	885
5	Quinton de Kock	789	813
6	Jonny Bairstow	775	796
7	Ross Taylor	775	841
8	R. van der Dussen	769	776
9	David Warner	750	880
10	Aaron Finch	745	798

ODI Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Trent Boult	726	770
2	Chris Woakes	700	731
3	Josh Hazlewood	698	733
4	Matt Henry	683	691
5	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	681	712
6	Jasprit Bumrah	679	841
7	Shaheen Afridi	671	671
8	Mehedi Hasan	661	725
9	Shakib Al Hasan	657	717
10	Rashid Khan	650	806

T20I Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	805	896
2	Aiden Markram	796	796
3	Mohammad Rizwan	794	798
4	Dawid Malan	728	915
5	Devon Conway	703	784
6	Aaron Finch	679	900
7	R. van der Dussen	669	780
8	Martin Guptill	658	793
9	Pathum Nissanka	654	685
10	K.L. Rahul	646	854

T20I Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Tabraiz Shamsi	784	821
2	Adil Rashid	746	746
3	Josh Hazlewood	737	806
4	Adam Zampa	719	743
5	Rashid Khan	714	816
6	Wanindu Hasaranga	687	797
7	Anrich Nortje	655	655
8	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	654	745
9	Nasum Ahmed	637	637
10	Shaheen Afridi	634	634

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ANCELOTTI'S TROPHY CABINET AS MANAGER

OTHER TROPHIES: 2xClub World Cups, 3xEuropean Super Cups, 2xGerman Super Cups, Spanish Super Cup, Community Shield, Italian Super Cup, Intertoto Cup.

- **3XCHAMPIONS LEAGUE** 2002-03, 2006-07 (Milan), 2013-14 (Real)
- **SERIE A** 2003-04 (Milan)
- **PREMIER LEAGUE** 2009-10 (Chelsea)
- **LIGUE 1** 2012-13 (PSG)
- **BUNDESLIGA** 2016-17 (Bayern)
- **LALIGA** 2021-22 (Real)
- **COPPA ITALIA** 2002-03 (Milan)
- **FA CUP** 2009-10 (Chelsea)
- **COPA DEL REY** 2013-14 (Real)

Don Carlo: balancer of stars, fixer of problems, **winner of trophies**

* GETTY IMAGES

Ancelotti has had a remarkably successful career as manager, winning Europe's biggest cup and league prizes. This season with Real Madrid may be his best yet

ASSOCIATED PRESS
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Carlo Ancelotti has a great line on the fickle, itinerant nature of the football manager's life – "A coach's suitcase is always ready," he once told Italian reporters who wanted to know how he saw his tenure at Napoli playing out. His words proved prophetic; he was soon sacked, bringing an end to his time in Naples and clearing the way for a move to Everton.

And after a season and a half on Merseyside, Ancelotti had cause to reach for his suitcase again. A chance conversation with Real Madrid president Florentino Perez led to the idea of the manager's return being floated. It quickly took shape, and Ancelotti replaced Zinedine Zidane after Real's first trophy-less season in more than a decade.

The 62-year-old's arrival in Madrid last summer took many by surprise – not least because Perez had fired Ancelotti in 2015, a year after he led Real to its 10th European Cup, the much-coveted and long-awaited La Decima. What's more, Ancelotti appeared to have fallen out of the European coaching elite – his time in Bayern Munich was panned by critics who measured him by the standards his predecessor Pep Guardiola had set, while the fans at Napoli, enthralled by the exhilarating football Maurizio Sarri had coached, never really warmed to the Italian's pragmatism. Ancelotti's stint at Everton was underwhelming, too. The side finished 12th and 10th in successive seasons, having its moments but not capturing the imagination of Toffees supporters. So Perez's decision was seen as little more than a short-term move – a reflection of the market last summer, when there was a dearth of top coaches available. It was also an appointment that could be curtailed without much fuss or financial penalty when an exciting managerial opportunity came along.

As Real's coach, he is aware that a debacle can happen, like the 4-0 defeat against Barcelona. Genius is simply not available in every game. Ancelotti knows that and the players know that he knows it. They support each other because he is one of them

PHILIPP LAHM
Former Germany captain

Among the elite

And yet, less than a year later, Ancelotti – who might have thought his days of winning Europe's biggest leagues were a thing of the past – has added LaLiga to his glittering list of honours.

Real's triumph ensured he became the only coach to have clinched all five major European league titles. He also won the Premier League with Chelsea, Serie A with AC Milan, Ligue 1 with Paris Saint-Germain and the Bundesliga with Bayern Munich. And while Ancelotti's Chelsea pipped Alex Ferguson's Manchester United to the league by a single point in 2010, the others have all been won at a canter – Real's latest LaLiga crown was guaranteed when there were still four games to spare.

As if that weren't impressive enough, Ancelotti became the first manager in history to reach five Champions League finals after Real's back-from-the-dead triumph over Manchester City. He is level with Liverpool legend Bob Paisley and ex-Madrid boss Zidane on three European Cups as a coach; victory on May 28 against Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool would see him become the first manager to win the trophy four times.

Ancelotti won the Champions League twice as a coach with Milan before masterminding Madrid's historic tenth.

He has a history with Liverpool in the Champions League: he was Milan manager during the heartbreaking defeat, on penalties, in the 2005 final in Istanbul, the Italians squandering a 3-0 half-time lead. However, Ancelotti's Milan gained revenge two years later when it beat the Reds 2-1 in Athens. He last faced Liverpool during his spell at Everton, in which time he was unbeaten against the Reds in three Premier League meetings and notably oversaw a 2-0 win at Anfield.

Real has two league games remaining and the veteran Italian coach must perform the delicate balancing act of keeping his team in top competitive form while hoping to avoid any injuries to first-choice players in the run-up to the Champions League final in Paris.

Delicate balancing acts are something Ancelotti specialises in; it's central to his coaching style, which is underpinned by flexibility, common sense and player empowerment.

He may have studied under Arrigo Sacchi, an innovator credited with revolutionising the game, but Ancelotti himself is not viewed as a pioneer.

This can sometimes hurt him when he faces a tactical ideologue, such as Xavi, whose Barcelona side swept Real 4-0 in the most recent Clasico. Ancelotti's tactics were widely criticised as dated and directionless compared with Xavi's strong philosophy of play.

"I tried to push up and it hasn't come off, my fault," Ancelotti said after the defeat. "When they advanced, we lost control. It's a blow, we have lost a battle, but we don't have to make a drama out of this match. We have to forget it and look forward."

The defeat didn't affect the title race. And while Ancelotti's football may not always compare favourably with managers on the tactical frontier of the sport, nobody can deny that he is an astute operator with a long-forgotten trick or two up his sleeve.

Should Real win the Champions League this season, Ancelotti will have overseen wins over sides managed by Thomas Tuchel, Pep Guardiola and Jurgen Klopp – widely recognised as the most brilliant coaching minds in modern football. Not bad for a manager seemingly behind the times.

Ancelotti's speciality lies in getting a group of world-class footballers to set their egos aside for long enough to gel together and express themselves on the pitch. Players who work under him talk about his emotional balance, sense of humour and genuine warmth.

"As a player you feel comfortable because you sense that the coach is ready to make his methods available," former Germany and Bayern captain Philipp Lahm wrote in the Guardian. "That is why he is successful everywhere. As Real's coach, he is aware that a debacle can happen, like the 4-0 defeat against Barcelona. Genius is simply not available in every game. Ancelotti knows that and the players know that he knows it. They support each other because he is one of them."

Developing attackers

Adept at finding quick fixes, Ancelotti is also known for his ability to get the best out of attacking talent. At the top of Ancelotti's successes this season has been the transformation of Vinicius Junior from an exciting but erratic young prospect to one of the world's most clinical forwards.

Karim Benzema has hit a new, stratospheric level under Ancelotti, continuing his upward trajectory since Cristiano Ronaldo's departure in 2018. The Italian has also shored up the defence. The departures of Sergio Ramos and Raphael Varane broke up a long-established partnership but the performances of Eder Militao and David Alaba have ensured neither has been missed.

Of course every manager will have his own ideas. But you need to have good relations with the players to implement them. You don't win with personality and heart alone. You need everything – will, individual quality and collective commitment

ANCELOTTI

There has been criticism of Ancelotti – of Madrid's counter-attacking style, his lack of rotation – but he has stayed in control of the narrative. The results have helped a great deal – the sheer technical quality of his players has bailed him out of many a spot – but equally he has shown he can evolve. His coaching staff is more modern. There is an increased emphasis on physical preparation – the performances of Luka Modric, the 36-year-old Croatian, has been the most resounding riposte to early concerns about Ancelotti's lack of rotation.

A LaLiga-Champions League double should be enough to convince Perez that Ancelotti is worth a second season, especially with Kylian Mbappe expected to join in the summer. If there is a parting of ways, after defeat in the Champions League final, it is unlikely to be bitter. With the league title won, both parties would consider the appointment a success.

Ancelotti has said he will "probably stop" after his time in Madrid. He has, after all, achieved everything there is to achieve as a club manager. But he admitted he could be tempted by an opportunity to coach a national team at the World Cup.

You can be sure his suitcase will be ready.

GAME THEORY

The standards Stokes will be measured against

With star all-rounder Ben Stokes set to take the reigns as England Test captain this summer, we run the rule over previous England skippers and look at how all-rounders have fared with bat and ball when given the top job

MOST WINS AS ENGLAND CAPTAIN | Although Root has won the most Tests, he has the highest loss% of any England captain with at least 10 wins. Brearley has the highest win% and lowest loss% in this list

Player	Span	Tests	Won	Lost	Drawn	Win%	Loss%
Joe Root	2017-2022	64	27	26	11	42.18	40.62
Michael Vaughan	2003-2008	51	26	11	14	50.98	21.56
Alastair Cook	2010-2016	59	24	22	13	40.67	37.28
Andrew Strauss	2006-2012	50	24	11	15	48.00	22.00
Peter May	1955-1961	41	20	10	11	48.78	24.39
Mike Brearley	1977-1981	31	18	4	9	58.06	12.90
Nasser Hussain	1999-2003	45	17	15	13	37.77	33.33
Mike Atherton	1993-2001	54	13	21	20	24.07	38.88
Ray Illingworth	1969-1973	31	12	5	14	38.70	16.12
Len Hutton	1952-1955	23	11	4	8	47.82	17.39
Graham Gooch	1988-1993	34	10	12	12	29.41	35.29

ALL-ROUNDERS AS CAPTAINS | Several noted all-rounders have better batting and/or bowling averages when leading the side compared with when they weren't, with Imran Khan being the most striking example. Ian Botham is the only one on this list to perform worse in both metrics when he was skipper compared with when he wasn't

	AS CAPTAIN			NOT CAPTAIN		
	Tests	Batting avg.	Bowling avg.	Tests	Batting avg.	Bowling avg.
Richie Benaud	28	22.66	25.78	35	25.64	28.59
Garfield Sobers	39	58.80	34.00	54	57.01	34.07
Imran Khan	48	52.34	20.26	40	25.43	25.53
Ian Botham	12	13.14	33.08	90	36.74	27.93
Kapil Dev	34	31.72	26.35	97	30.82	30.78
Wasim Akram	25	24.16	23.35	79	22.02	23.71
Shaun Pollock	26	41.58	21.36	82	29.92	23.68
Andrew Flintoff	11	33.23	34.44	68	31.53	32.49
Daniel Vettori	32	39.12	33.38	81	25.62	34.82
Shakib Al Hasan	14	35.30	28.77	45	40.93	32.31

Note: Only all-rounders with at least 2,000 runs (min. avg. 20.00) and 150 wickets (min. avg. 35.00) over their careers and with at least 10 Tests as captain made the cut

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

PICTURE THIS

SEAN M. HAFFEY/GETTY IMAGES

Pot luck gone bad

Stephen Maguire offers an illustration of what facing the great Ronnie O'Sullivan at Sheffield's iconic Crucible Theatre can do to you – one missed pot and O'Sullivan runs the table.

The two players have 'previous': back at the 2004 World Championships, O'Sullivan beat Maguire in the first round, but was so impressed by his opponent that he tipped the Scot to be a future snooker world champion.

In the semifinals of the 2004 British Open, Maguire won in such convincing fashion that a vanquished O'Sullivan claimed he had "never seen anything like that on a snooker table before".

All these years later, the two faced off in the quarterfinals of the 2022 World Championships.

Maguire, despite beating former world champion Shaun Murphy after coming through the qualifiers, was so unhappy with how he was playing that he actually drove to Glasgow, borrowed a friend's cue and practised with it.

Unfortunately for Maguire, it wasn't enough against O'Sullivan and his wait to realise the Englishman's prediction continues.

As for O'Sullivan, he swept to a seventh world title, tying Stephen Hendry's record, and became the oldest world champion in snooker history at 46 years and 148 days.

CID arrests Dy. SP Shantha Kumar

Probe reveals that correct answers were filled in the strongroom of the recruitment cell

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which is probing the Police Sub-Inspector recruitment scam, arrested P. Shantha Kumar, Dy. SP, a key personnel in the police recruitment cell with a track record of 12 years in the cell. His arrest comes close on the heels of the arrest of four other junior personnel posted in the cell when the exams were held and results finalised.

PSI RECRUITMENT SCAM

The CID probe has reportedly uncovered that the OMR sheets of many candidates who had paid money were tampered with and correct answers filled in the strong room at the recruitment cell: the first time a malpractice at the cell has come to light.

Candidates who had paid money to touts left most of the questions unanswered in Paper II – 100 multiple choice questions for 150 marks – and it was believed that invigilators at the exam centres filled the OMR sheets after the exam with the correct answers. "However, it has now emerged that the OMR sheets were filled after the papers reached the strongroom, compromising the very process of the examination," a senior official said.

Tampered OMR sheets

In Kalaburagi, OMR sheets were tampered with at the exam centres, but for many other candidates in Bengaluru and elsewhere, they were allegedly tampered with at the recruitment cell itself, sources said.

The CID has been probing the role of the recruitment cell for the past week and arrested four personnel two days ago. Following the leads, they questioned Shantha Kumar for over a day since Thursday and arrested him Friday evening.

With the arrest of Shantha Kumar and alleged widespread malpractices at the strongroom of the recruitment cell, the CID is likely to put the role of Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Amrit Paul, who headed the cell during the exams, under the scanner. The CID has been mulling on serving Mr. Paul a notice to appear before it for questioning.

"The probe is going ahead in a very systematic way, first covering candidates who have indulged in malpractices, then touts and slowly have now started probing the recruitment cell," a senior official said.

Honorary doctorate conferred

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

M.R. Jayaram, Chairman, the Gokula Education Foundation - M.S. Ramaiah Group of Institutions, was conferred an honorary doctorate by the University of Illinois, Chicago, on May 6. The president of the University of Illinois Dr. Timothy Killeen, presented the degree of 'Doctor of Humane Letters' to Dr. Jayaram in recognition of his valuable contribution in promoting higher education and healthcare services.

The presentation of the doctorate took place as part of the 140th commencement ceremony of the varsity's College of Medicine, in which Doctor of Medicine and other degrees were awarded to 317 graduates. Dr. Jayaram was the only recipient of an honorary degree on the occasion.

IN BRIEF

Disruption in water supply

BENGALURU

In view of repairs at Srigandhakaval pump house, water supply will be hit on May 14. According to a BWSSB release, the affected areas are: Shivanahalli, Mahaganapathi Nagar, Manjunatha Nagar, Judge Colony, Bovi Colony, Indiranagar slum, Cauvery Nagara, Kamataka Layout, Gruhalakshmi Layout, and surrounding areas.

Man kills friend over trivial row

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A BPO employee was killed by his friend who allegedly stabbed him in an inebriated state in Kacharakanahalli on Thursday night.

Jayakumar, 30, was at a party at his friend Rahil's house. Both were in an inebriated state, and Jayakumar took exception to Rahil not paying EMIs of a loan he had been surety for. A tiff broke out Jayakumar reportedly kicked Rahil, angering him. Rahil allegedly picked up a knife and stabbed Jayakumar in the chest.

Rahil then fled the spot.

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Justice K.L. Manjunath was a synonym for unbiased Judgement in the annals of Karnataka.

Being a rare personality with very simple but highly disciplined life style, he has earned kudos and compliments besides attaining sucess in both professional and personal life.

An ardent follower of principles of Mahatma Gandhi, Justice K.L. Manjunath was fully committed to the truth and stuck to it throughout his life. Many a times his upright judgements whipped up administrative machinery and gave a new pace to the implementation of welfare measures. This has brought him a lot of public eulogization.

Having been appointed as Judge of Karnataka High Court on 11.12.2000, Justice K.L. Manjunath has put in 14 years of fruitful service in the Judiciary. Besides this, Justice Manjunath also had adorned the chair of Karnataka River and Border Protection Commission of the Government of Karnataka.

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Floating walls

Unconventionally brilliant structures created by an architect duo. A look by **NANDHINI SUNDAR**

DESIGN

Stylish looks, with plenty of sunlight seeping in. • CREST ARCHITECTS

It is barely six years since the duo completed their architecture schooling; yet the two, in their late twenties, have a portfolio of work to showcase that display a young master's touch. Having already completed over 20 projects since they began practising and with over 30 projects currently in the pipeline, Architects Vishwas Venkat and Vikas M.V. of Crest Architects are clearly riding the crest of their success. Their range of projects stands testimony to their brilliance in design, conceptualisation and perseverance to explore and excel.

Their very first project, Floating Walls, was incidentally initiated while still in college, in their third year of architecture to be precise. "It was an unplanned meeting, yet the concept interested us to the point of prompting us to take the discussion forward which ultimately landed us the project", smiles Vishwas. Having committed to the design, the duo had to then juggle their architecture school with the design and execution of the project. "We succeeded simply because our perception of design was not work but pure joy of conceptualisation and execution", he further adds.

Given the project being located in a congested urban site, Vishwas and Vikas had to come up with an inward looking design which called for the presence of a sky-lit courtyard. "Bringing in an internal courtyard in the residence made a connect with vernacular sentiments. It also ensured there was ample natural light and ventilation besides permitting the residents to experience greenery in their interiors", he points. With the design veering towards keeping the spaces inward looking, the duo came up with cantilevered outer walls infused with slits which would make the walls appear to be floating in air without a base to rest on.

> **Cantilevered outer walls infused with slits make the walls appear to be floating in the air without a base to rest on.**

"The outer walls were cantilevered on the beams resting on the columns to create these slits. These slits were covered in glass to permit the infiltration of copious natural light into the interiors. Further, the windows were placed haphazardly at unconventional heights so as to form a unique design by themselves, accentuating the floating feel of the structure", explains Vikas. Key portions of the roof too were cantilevered to lend the appearance of floating, creating the visual of a light and free structure.

Incidentally, the floats do not stop with the outer walls but extend to the interiors too beginning with the floating staircase treads that serve as an arresting sculptural element in the courtyard.

This is complemented by a demarcating wall between the dining area and kitchen where it is suspended from the ceiling to appear as a hanging wall with no support underneath.

Given the minimal décor of the interiors, articulated chiefly by the natural materials used, the floating walls and staircase treads stand out as the highlight in the décor. Further, at the entrance, a massive 8-feet door greets the visitor with its floating slab, serving as a prelude to what awaits in the interiors.

Captured in a frame

When architects Vishwas and Vikas were asked to design a model villa in a township, they decided on an unconventional approach. The Framed House, as the project was named, has pockets of its interiors captured in a frame to surprise and hold interest. With a façade that comes with a blank wall to block the south-west sun, the structure is designed as two vertical cubes that frame the elevation with small slits on the blank white wall. At the entrance a circular glass frame gives a peek into the deck within. The living area along with its double height sun-lit courtyard comes with a framed puja area which connects to the outdoor garden deck. "The framed openings are not restricted to outer walls but extend to interiors or capture the exteriors from within the residence", clarifies Vishwas.

The courtyard along with the slits and frames on the outer walls ensures there is ample natural light and ventilation in the interiors. "We were particular on the quantum of natural light and ventilation for the interiors as this has a strong impact on the psyche of the user of any space", says Vikas. "They bring in an unmatched energy which is amplified when teamed with greenery and water. We try to fuse in these elements into our spaces along with the use of natural materials where the colours are articulated by their presence against an otherwise pristine white background."

Stacked cubes

In their residential project Long House, the four bedrooms feature on two levels in the shape of three cubes stacked over each other in a staggered manner with a sun-lit courtyard in its midst. A 24-feet cantilevered roof hovers over the car park to accentuate the linear form of the structure. The exposed concrete lends a minimalist language to the spaces within.

NS

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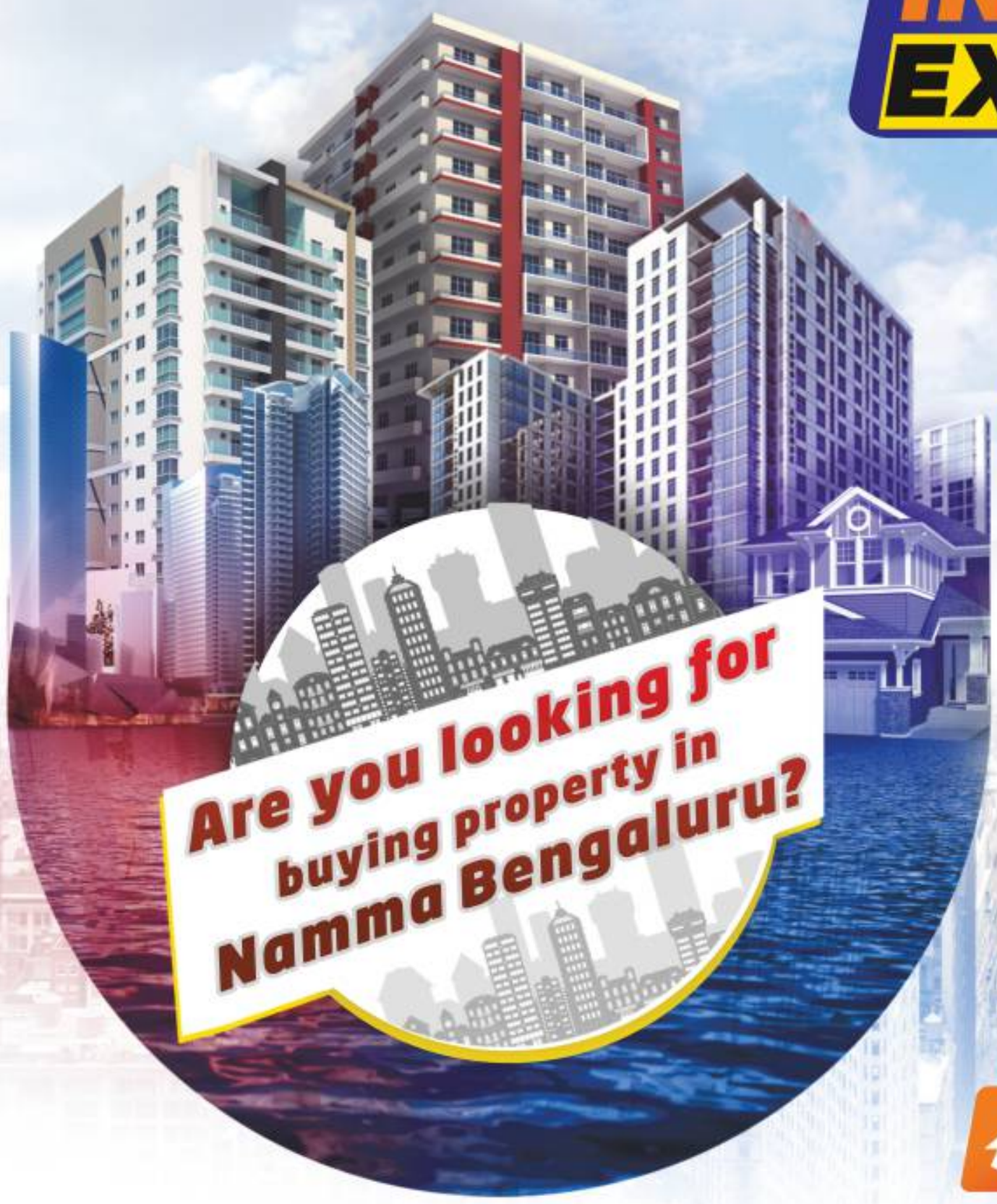

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PG students in two State medical varsities get same question paper

Identical papers given to students of RGUHS, Dr. N.T.R. University of Health Sciences

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

In a curious case, students who appeared for the Postgraduate Anaesthesiology (Paper-I) examination conducted by two different State-run medical universities - Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), Bengaluru, and Dr. N.T.R. University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada, - ended up answering the same question paper.

RGUHS had conducted the Anaesthesiology (Paper-I) examination on May 7, while Dr. N.T.R. University's paper was on May 12. There were no differences between the two papers. Both the universities had set 10 essay-type questions for a maximum of 100 marks in the three-hour paper.

Among the questions asked were: Discuss the neuromuscular transmission with the help of a diagram; write a note on physiological changes during hypothermia; discuss the preanaesthetic assessment clinic and its usefulness; discuss the application of gas laws in anaesthesia; Laryngeal Mask Airway devices, types and their uses; Hoffmann elimination; compare the pharmacological effects of morphine fentanyl; Hypoxic pulmonary vasoconstriction; caudal epidural space; and write a note on Horace wells.

However, both universities have claimed that it happened accidentally. "There is no examination fraud or unlawful gain for any student," the authorities maintained.

Response from varsities

When contacted, Dr. N.T.R University of Health Sciences Registrar K. Shankar said, "The paper setter is common for both universities and they have given same question paper. It is accidental and there is no issue. We issued the students one set of paper from the set of six they had given us. There is no benefit or gain to the students."

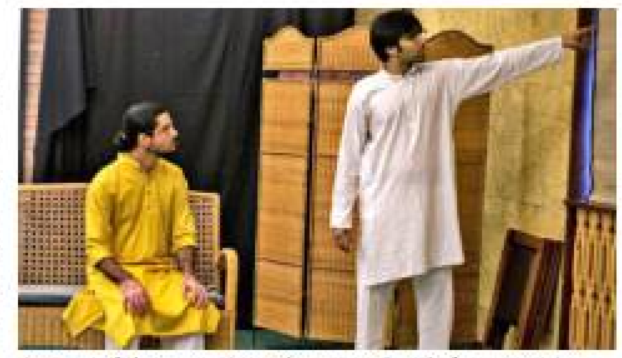
"We will take a necessary precaution for the next examination and this will not be repeated. Also, we will inform the paper setters to not to give the same question papers to all universities," he added.

On the other hand, RGUHS Vice-Chancellor M.K. Ramesh, said, "The question paper setter has made a mistake. We choose a question paper setter across the nation randomly. Those people accidentally have given the same question paper for both universities. It is accidental, and there is no problem for the students."

For performing arts, the show is on after two years of pandemic

ILEENA DUTTA
BENGALURU

Curtains are up after a two-year, pandemic-induced hiatus for the art scene in the city. With the surge in the number of live performances, plays and various other art forms, artists, performing arts professionals and entertainment platforms are seeing a good response from the public. A few hope for an even better situation in the days to come.



A group of theatre artists rehearsing ahead of an upcoming play in Bengaluru. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

After the easing of lockdown restrictions and the entertainment industry opening up, the audience reception for out-of-home entertainment experiences has been encouraging, with consumers wanting to experience their favourite forms of entertainment across genres - theatre, comedy or music. This year, after the waning of the third wave, theatre enthusiasts are looking to step out and enjoy the art form once again, live, on-stage and in its full glory.

"We had a play recently at Alliance Francaise de Bangalore and I didn't expect it to be a houseful event, especially during a time when it is anticipated that a fourth wave of pandemic is approaching. But it was overwhelming to see such a positive response from the theatre lovers in the city," said Spatica Ramanujam, actor, playwright and director. "I think people are wanting back the live connection. They are happy to share a space with others physically. Definitely, for theatre, it's great that again we are able to present live before the audience. After all, live streaming, zoom events and such are never the same. We have several such plays lined up over the weeks. We hope to get a similar response from the audience," she added.

Since the start of 2022, BookMyShow, a leading entertainment destination, has hosted over 2,000 plays across various genres, languages and age groups in different cities of India with more than 2,00,000 tickets sold, thus reinforcing the audience's desire for quality out-of-home entertainment experiences, said Anil Makhija, COO - Live Entertainment and Venues, BookMyShow.

India's growing appetite and interest for live events has created a massive demand in the industry for diverse and compelling shows across genres, languages and geographies. "In April 2022 itself, consumer transactions for live entertainment have witnessed a whopping 31% increase from March levels surpassing them significantly. We are hopeful that this trend continues on an upward trajectory as entertainment enthusiasts continue to step out for live shows across formats on-ground," added Mr. Makhija.

Gold smugglers intercepted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Customs officials at Kempegowda International Airport intercepted two passengers coming from Dubai and recovered ₹1.44 crore worth 2.8 kg of gold paste from them.

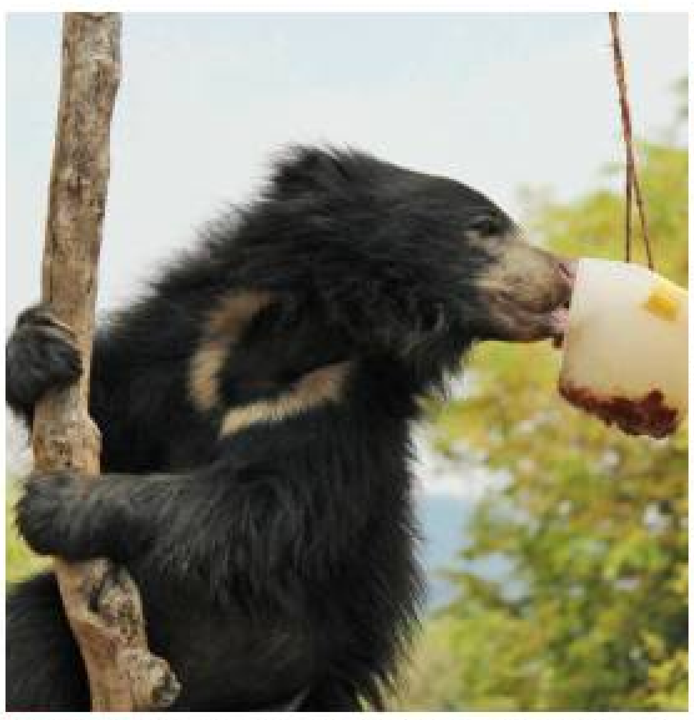
Based on a tip off from Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, the Customs officials intercepted the two passengers. They had concealed gold paste pattis in their waistline and underwear. The police have arrested the two passengers and further investigation is on.

SJIM's 25th convocation today

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

As many as 174 students will graduate this year at the 25th annual convocation of St. Joseph's Institute of Management (SJIM) on Saturday. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot will deliver the convocation address, while Rev. Fr. Dionysius Vaz, the Provincial of Karnataka Jesuit Province, will preside over the function. The ceremony will be held at the institute on Primrose Road, at 4 p.m.

Beating the heat



Bear season: The Wildlife SOS Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Centre in Bengaluru has adopted several measures to help the rescued animals cope with the summer heat. Water pools have been made available for the bears to swim in and cool off, apart from water sprinklers that help soften the ground and create cool zones inside their free-ranging enclosures. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

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COVID-19: Karnataka registers 156 new cases, zero deaths

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Friday reported 156 new cases taking the day's Test Positivity Rate to 0.8%. The weekly TPR reduced to 0.86% and the total number of cases touched 39,49,446. Of the new cases, 143 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban alone.

With zero deaths, the State's toll remained at 40,063. Besides, 42 deaths of patients due to non-COVID-19 reasons have been recorded. As many as 179 persons were discharged on Friday taking the total recoveries to 39,07,480. Active cases touched 1,861.

As many as 19,500 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, including 14,160 RT-PCR tests. With this, the total number of tests rose to 6,60,44,470.

THE HINDU

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Web: www.rims-raichur.com Email : info@rims-raichur.com

NO.RIMS/TEND/SER/08/2022-23/ Dated: 11.05.2022

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for Providing Outsourcing Services for Cleaning, Safai Karmacharies and other Services to RIMS Medical College, Teaching Hospital & Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital (OPEC), Raichur under two cover bid system through E-Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka.

1) Tender document may be download from E-procurement portal of the Govt. of Karnataka from 13.05.2022, 2) Tender must be submitted online through E-procurement portal on or before 11.06.2022 upto 5.00 PM, 3) Technical bid will be opened on 13.06.2022 at 11.30 A.M.

Further information may be obtained from above office and from www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and also from this Institution web site www.rims-raichur.com

Sd/- Director,
DIP/Raichur/84/MC&A/2022-23 Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences, Raichur

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಲೋಇಬಾವಿ/ಎಇ/ಟೆಂಡರ್:2022-23/406 ದಿನಾಂಕ:11-05-2022

-: ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ :-

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999-2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಮತ್ತು 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-1,2,3,4 ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ವರ್ಕ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: **ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ: 148682, 146433, 148855, 148856, 148857, 152262, 148685, 148686, 148688, 148689, 148690, 148691, 148692, 148693, 148694, 150128, 150293, 148858, 151356, 151355, 152258, 134207 ಕಾಲ್-3, 141361, 140195, 140208, 138283ಕಾಲ್-3, 151097, 151439, 150125, 148839, 151438, 150127, 151160, 151145, 152263, 150163, 147930. 151709, 151708, 151705, 152121**

ಎಸ್.ಸಿ 151353

ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ **1300.00**ಲಕ್ಷ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.**12.35** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ವರೆಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅ)	ಪ್ರಿಬಿಡ್ ಮಿಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ:	13-05-2022 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 11-30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
ಬ)	ಟೆಂಡರ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಾಗಿ ನಿಗಧಿ ಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ:	16-05-2022 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5-30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
ಕ)	ಟೆಂಡರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:	23-05-2022 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4-00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
ಡ)	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:	24-05-2022 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
ಬ)	ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:	25-05-2022. ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ

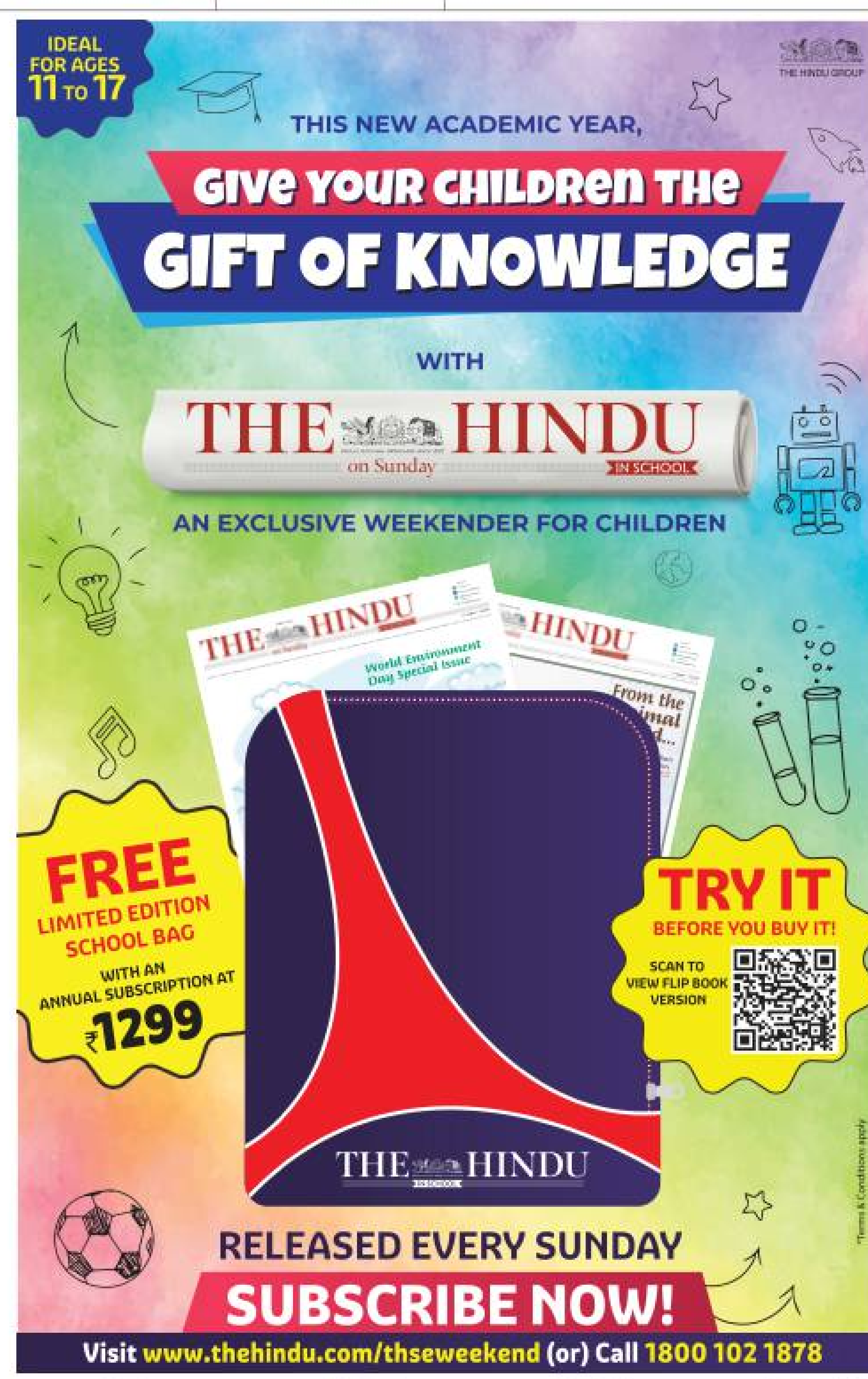
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿವರವಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ/98/2022-23/

ಕೋವಿಡ್-19. ಅವಧಿಯ ವೇಳೆ ಮುನ್ನೆಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ಇರಲಿ.

ಮಾಸ್ಕ್ ಧರಿಸಿ | 6 ಅಡಿ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳ ಅಂತರ ಪಾಲಿಸಿ | ಕೈಗಳ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ಕಾಪಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

President's Colours

presented to

ASSAM POLICE

by Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs & Minister of Cooperation, Govt. of India

on 10th May 2022

Assam becomes the 9th State in the country to be bestowed with this exceptional honour

"From preserving law and order to solving horrendous crimes, from assistance in disaster management to fighting COVID-19, our police personnel always give their best without hesitation. We are proud of their diligence and readiness to assist citizens."

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Medals of Honour

- Kirti Chakra — 2
- President's Police Medal for Gallantry — 6
- Police Medal for Gallantry — 275

Immortal Bravehearts: Police force with a diference

- A force with a glorious past spanning many decades — from fighting insurgency, 1971 Indo-Pak war, handling natural calamities, pandemic situation to maintaining law and order
- We have lost many bravehearts in the process — 407 Policemen made supreme sacrifice

End of Insurgency

- Due to improved law and order situation, AFSPA withdrawn from 23 districts — 66% of Assam
- 2,500+ militants have rejoined the mainstream
- Peace Accords signed with NDFB and Karbi militant groups

Zero Tolerance Against Crime

- Crime rate down from 384 to 222 per lakh population
- Massive increase in case disposal
- Decreased pendency of cases (May 2021 — 1,09,081; April 2022 — 83,947)

War on Drugs

- 2,834 cases registered, 4,838 persons arrested
- Drugs valued at ₹550 crore seized
- Mass awareness created against the use of drugs

Fighting Organised Crime

- 250 human trafficking victims rescued
- More than 10,000 cattles rescued, over 992 traffickers arrested

Technology Boost

- Infusion of latest technology such as ITMS, CCTNS, ICJS & Cyberdome
- 24X7 Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting & Management System

Ending Rhino Poaching

- Rhino poaching down to zero
- On World Rhino Day, 2,479 rhino horns burned to symbolise stern action and emphasise rhino conservation

Policing with a Human Face

- Transformation from an insurgency-oriented force to a Citizen Centric Service
- Assam Police played a stellar role during the COVID-19 pandemic

Smart Police

- Complete revamp of soft and hard Infrastructure to create a smart Police Force
- Focus on upgradation of skills, health and welfare of police personnel

जनेशर चक्कर | my GOV मेरी सरकार

And the glorious tradition continues...

Jansasanyog No.D/3334/21

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby Informed that, my Client **M. Lalith Kumar** who has purchased **SITE No.417** from V.M. Ramesh by the **Regd. SALE DEED** dated**18/1/1992** who has been allotted Site No. 417 BLOCK No.II Banashakari III Stage III Phase by Bangalore Development Authority by allotment Letter **No.B2/BSK/ III/ III/II/417/7980 & possession certificate** has been issued by letter **dt. 13/1/82** My client lost these two documents during transit and he has lodged a complaint regarding the Lost Article with the Police department, he has been issued with **Lost report No.0219718/ 2022.** Hence Public is informed that they should not deal with anyone with regard to any transactions concerning the above property based on these two lost documents, as my client is the absolute owner of this property having purchased the same from the original allottee. if anyone deals with the above property will be doing it at their own risk and costs.

T.B. KIRAN KUMAR, ADVOCATE,
No.3/2, 3rd Cross, Yediyur,
Bangalore-70 **Mob No.98450-17236**
Email: tbkiran@gmail.com

Office of the Principal Director,
KARNATAKA STATE AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT
3rd Floor, 'A' Block, TTMC Building, K.H. Road, Shanthinagara, Bengaluru - 560027. Phone No.: 080-22214817 Fax: 080-22216500
E-mail: controllerstateaccounts@yahoo.com / controllerksaad@gmail.com

No: Ra.Le.Pa./04/Pra.Tend.Ja/2022-23/436 Date: 11-05-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited for Providing the Service of **System Analyst, Data Entry Operators, Drivers and Group 'D' Personnel** to Karnataka State Audit and Accounts Department (KSA & AD) Offices - Head Office, Bengaluru, Regional Office, Bengaluru and Local Audit Circle Bengaluru Office Department, on annual rate contract basis.

1) EMD Amount: **Rs. 2,00,000/-. 2)** Last Date and Time for Submission of Bid: **25-05-2022 upto 3.00 P.M. 3)** Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **26-05-2022 at 3.00 P.M. 4)** Date and Time for Opening of Commercial Bid: **27-05-2022 at 3.00 PM.**

The bidder can obtain the tender details from e-Procurement Website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact e-Procurement Helpdesk at **080-22441076.**

Sd/- For Principal Director,
Karnataka State Audit And Accounts Department, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/505/Adverts/2022-23

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

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Government of Karnataka
Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chikkamagaluru

Tender Postponement Notice

Tender Postponement Notice No.: 15/2021-22 Date: 11.05.2022

Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chikkamagaluru invites Tenders for 142.73 lakhs for Empanelment of Implementation Support Agencies (NGOs/VOs/SHGs) for providing services related to IEC &HRD activities under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in rural areas under Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department. Contractors can be awarded the contract only if they have the minimum eligibility stated in annexure 1. Tender for works should be submiited through e-procurement from 11.05.2022 to 5.00 PM on 25.05.2022. Tender will be opened on 26.05.2022 at 5.00 PM. If this date is declared as a holiday the next day will be considered. Notice can be read in www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in For further details the case worker can be contacted during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chikkamagaluru

DIPR/ckm/No.25/mca/22-23/214

City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru

Office : 08262- 230420 Fax:0862232272 Commissioner : 08262-232272
Help Line : 08262- 232222 E-Mail ID: comm_ckg@yahoo.co.in
Website : www.chickmagalur.gov.in

ಕಂ:ಸಿಎಂಸಿ/ಸಿಕೆಎಂ/ಪು.ನಿ/ಸಿಆರ್ /01/2021–22 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.05.2022

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Short-Term Tender is invited in two cover system from Civil Contractors of eligible class registered with PWD for undertaking the below mentioned works. Those Interested can submit Tenders subject to conditions.

Sl.No. 1. Details of the Work: DMA/2021-22/BD/WORK_INDENT 129485 **Approx. Amount(Rs. in lakhs):** 292.10 **E.M.D.(in Rs.):** 3,83,254,00/-

Cost of Tender Form – As per e-procurement, Time Period – 06 Months (Excluding Rainy Season)

1. Last date for submission of Tender in e-procurement: 25.05.2022 up to 17.30 Hrs. **2.** Date of opening Technical Bid: 27.05.2022 at 11.00 Hrs. **3.** Date of opening Financial Bid: 30.05.2022 at 11.00 Hrs. **4.** Pre-Bid Meeting of Tender on 23.05.2022, 4.00PM at City Municipal Council Office.

Further details can be obtained during working hours of this office and from https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in If there are any changes, they will be published only in e-procurement and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Sri Varasiddhi Venugopal, President, City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.

Sd/- Smt. C.H. Umadevi Krishnappa, Vice President, City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.

Sd/- B.C. Basavaraju, K.M.A.S, City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.

DIPR/ckm/No.23/mca/22-23/212

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

49, Parisara Bhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru- 560 001
Ph : 080-2558 1383 / 2558 9112 Fax : 080-2558 6321
Email : ho@kspcb.gov.in Website : www.kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No.PCB/106/SEO/MINES/EPH/2022-23/1048 Dated: 13.05.2022

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

The Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited, has proposed Quarrying of Ordinary Sand from Krishna River bed at Konachapalli Sand Block (Block-1) for the production of 2,08,818 TPA in an area of 50.00 Acres (20.23 Ha) located at Sy. Nos. 39 to 44 & 57, Konachapalli Village, Devadurga Taluk, Raichur District. The project proponent has to obtain Environmental Clearance from SEIAA, Government of Karnataka, as per the EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006 (as amended on 01.12.2009), and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing. As per the SEIAA, Government of Karnataka, Terms of Reference letter (ToR) No. SEIAA 441 MIN 2021 dated: 06.12.2021 and request of the project proponent letter dated 02.02.2022,the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the Board.

The details of the project are as follows:

1.	**Name of the Company & Address: The Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited, 3rd Floor, KHB Shopping Complex, National Games Village, Koramangala, Bangalore- 560047**
2.	**Proposed Location of Quarry: Sy. Nos. 39 to 44 & 57, Konachapalli Village, Devadurga Taluk, Raichur District, Karnataka.**
3.	**Details of proposed activity: Quarrying of Ordinary Sand of Capacity 2,08,818 TPA.**
4.	**Pollution control measures:** Chemical Toilet will be provided for the disposal of domestic waste water generated from mine office. Rainwater collected during the rainy season in the mine will be used for dust suppression and plantation. Regular sprinkling of water on haul and access roads. Regular maintenance of all equipment to minimize particulate matter and gaseous emissions from diesel engines. Plantation of thick greenbelt is provided around lease area boundary and it acts as a barrier to restrict fugitive emissions.
5.	**Date, time and venue of public hearing: 14.06.2022 (Tuesday) at 05.00 PM, Near the Karkihalli PWD inventory centre, Devadurga Taluk, Raichur District.**
6.	**Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are:** (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Raichur District, Raichur (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Raichur (c) District Industries Centre, Raichur (d) Chief Officer, TMC, Devadurga (e) Gram Panchayath Office, Dondambli, (f) Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Raichur (g) SEIAA, Government of Karnataka, Room No. 706, 7th Floor, 4th Gate, MS Building, Bengaluru – 560 001 (h) **HELP DESK,** Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. They can also make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Raichur District, Raichur). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details please visit our Website: **kspcb.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

AVOID USE OF PLASTICS, BE ECO-FRIENDLY

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT DIVISION KALABURGI

No:EE/RDP/DK/TS/Tender/ KKRDB /2022-23/125 Date: 12-05-2022

SHORT TIME E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

1) Name Of Work: 1. Construction of CC Road From Sannatti Main Road to Chowdeshwar Colony Nalwar (Via Warad Field & Korisiddeshwar Temple) in Chittapur Taluk, Kalaburagi District Under HKRDB 2021-22 Micro INDENT No:5461, 2. Improvements to Road From Bhimanalli to Belegera Thanda km 4.95 to 6.10 km in Chittapur Taluk, Kalaburagi District,Under KKRDB 2021-22(Micro) INDENT No:5462, 3. Improvements to Road From Satnoor Cross to Balram Chowk in Chittapur Taluka, Kalaburagi District.Under KKRDB 2021-22(Micro) INDENT No:5463, 4. Construction of CC Road And Drain in ITI College Nagavi Campus in Chittapur Taluk, Kalaburagi District Under HKRDB 2021-22 Micro INDENT No:5444 CALL-2 2) Head Of Account : KKRDB 2021-22(Micro), 3) Amount Put to Tender: Min **Rs. 4452321.87,** Max **Rs. 16035525.96,** 4) Class of Contractor: Class-I and Above, 5) Submission of tender form & Completion last date of tender: **12/05/2022 to 21/05/2022 Evening Up to 4:30 PM** 6) Cost of tender form & EMD Amount: Cost of Tender form & EMD Mentioned in e-Proc, 7) Last of Submission of tender: **21/05/2022 Evening Up to 4:30 PM,** 8) Opening date of Tender: **23/05/2022 Evening After 4:35 PM,** 9) Opening date of Financial Bid: **30/05/2022 Evening After 4:30 PM,** 10) Address required for additional information: Office of Executive Engineer Rural development Panchayat Raj Engnieering Project Division in front of Dr. B.R Ambedkar Hostel Rajapur road Kalaburgi, 11) E-mail Address: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
RD PRE Project Division Kalaburgi

DIP/Kalaburagi/136/MC&A/2022-23

Govt. of Karnataka (Zilla Panchayat, Gadag)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Gadag

No.PRED/GDG/PB-1/Tender /2022-23/292 Date : 12-05-2022

E-Procurement Short Term Tender Notification
Standard Bid Document KW- 4 [Two Cover System]

Tenders are invited for the following 01 Nos. of works as per Karnataka Public Transparency Act-2000 Standard Bid Document KW-4 Rules from eligible contractor through e-Procurement Portal Eligible Contractors registered in the year **Head of A/c** 2021-22 3054 Lumpsum Fund of Panchayat Raj Engineering Department can Participate through https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Work Indent	Amount Put to Tender (in Rs)	EMD Amount to be submitted through e-proc(in Rs.)	Period from Completion of work (including Monsoon)	Class of Contractor
I	PK-I GADAG & RON: 1]REPAIRS TO INTERIOR ROAD FROM GAVARAWAD TO HUILGOL ROAD [2]IMPROVEMENTS TO ROAD FROM BALAGANUR TO BELAVANAKI IN GADAG TALUK [3]REPAIRS TO INTERIOR ROAD FROM GUJAMAGADI TO D.S. HADAGALI IN RON TALUK OF GADAG DIST UNDER 2021-22 3054 LUMPSUM GRANT. **WORK_INDENT90476**	**1,14,92,583.80**	**1,72,400/-**	9 Months	Valid PWD contractor participate KW-4

Date for Submission of filled in application and Schedule-B through website is : **13-05-2022** to **19-05-2022** Pre Bid meeting **16-05-2022** at 16:00 hrs Date of opening of Technical Bid **21-05-2022** at 16:30 hrs and opening of Financial Bid : **24-05-2022 at** 16:30 hrs. Successful eligible bidders of the Financial Bid must personally visit the above office for the difference amount of P.S.D. amount in the form of F.D.R. (as per Rule No.13) within 20 days from the date of publishing of the tender. Since it is electronic system and paper less there is no communication through letters, More details can be had during office hours. **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Gadag**

DIPR/Gadag/MCA/80/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation and Ground water Development Division, Chitradurga

NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB4/TENDER NOTIFICATION: 10/2021-22/772 DATE: 12-05-2022

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (ONE-TWO COVER) KW- 4

Item rate tender in One & two cover system as per KTPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible Class-I contractors registered in KPWD & Eligible Agency/Consultancy for the following work through e-procurement portal.

Name of work:- 1) Repairs to sluice of tavarekere Tank in Halejoga village in Nyamati Taluk of Honnali Vidhana sabha Constituency (Reserved for ST) Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-44.38 (2) Construction of Checkdam across Gunduvahalla near Mussenal village of Nyamati taluk Davanagere District (Reserved for SC Contractor) Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-44.61 (3) PKG-1: Repairs to Savalanga New Tank in Honnali Taluk and Repairs to Savalanga Ooramundinakere Tank in Nyamati Taluk, Davanagere District. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-307.99 (4) PKG-2: Repairs to Soraturu Tank in Honnali Taluk, Repairs to H Gopagondanahalli in Honnali Taluk and Repairs to Kattige Tank in Honnali Taluk, Davanagere District. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-354.72 (5) PKG-3: Repairs to Bhairanahalli Tank in Honnali taluk, Repairs to Taraganahalli Tank in Honnali taluk, Repairs to Hiregonigere Tank in Honnali taluk and Repairs to Konanatale Tank in Honnali taluk, Davanagere District. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-356.63 (6) PKG:04 Repairs at Ch3.50km to Low level Nala of Savalanga Tank in Nyamati Taluk of Honnali Vidhana Sabha Constituency, Repairs to Chatnalli Tank in Honnali Taluk and Repairs at Ch 2.50 Km to High Level Canal of Savalanga Tank in Nyamati Taluk of Honnali Vidhana Sabha Constituency. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-267.40 (7) PKG-5: Repairs to waste weir of Savalanga Ooramundina kere, Repairs to waste weir and canal of Chinnikatte Tavarakere tank near Chinnikatte and repairs to Yallapura tank and feeder nala near Chinnikatte village in Nyamati Tq of Honnali Vidhanasabha Constituency. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-244.82 (8) PKG-6: Repairs to Cause way across Kumri halla and Repairs to Cause way across Kuntaboothappana Halla near Sooragondanakoppa village, in Nyamati taluk, Construction of Bridge cum Barrage Halla near Dodderi Road and Construction of Checkdam to Vaddarakatte Halla in Nyamati taluk, Davanagere District Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-267.02 (9) PKG-7: Construction of Checkdam cum Barrage across Agarasara Halla of Sasivehalli village Honnali taluk, Construction of Checkdam across Giddanahalla in Narasagondanahalli village of Honnali taluk and Construction of Checkdam across Guddada halla near Somanamallapura of Honnali taluk . Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-442.24 (10) PKG-8: Repairs to Check dam near Ganjenahalli village and Construction of Checkdam across Hire halla near Palavanahalli village of Nyamati taluk in Honnali Vidhana Sabha Constituency. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-221.56 (11) PKG9: Construction of Checkdam across kengrihalla near Hosakatte village and Construction of Checkdam across Hirehalla near Kunkuva village in Nyamati taluk of Davanagere District. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-133.50 (12) PKG-10: Construction of Bridge cum Checkdam across Padadahalla near Kattige village of Honnali taluk and Construction of Checkdam across Guddadahalla near R5y No.180/1 of Kattige village in Honnali taluk of Davanagere District. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-178.14 (13) PKG-11: Construction of Checkdam across Marihalla and Construction of Checkdam across Kagrihalla near Madhenahalli village of Honnali taluk . Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-266.21 (14) PKG-12: Construction of Protection wall to Kodihalla near Sy.No.103 in Savalanga village of Nyamati taluk Honnali Vidhanasabha Constituency and Construction of Protection wall to Tavarekere Kodihalla and Rangapattanakere Feeder Nala near HaleJoga of Nyamati taluk Honnali Vidhanasabha Constituency. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-353.53 (15) PKG-13: Construction of Protection wall behind Checkdam near Hanumasagara village in Honnali taluk Honnali Vidhanasabha Constituency and Construction of Protection wall to Hirehalla near Kankanahalli-Kodachagondanahalli in Nyamati taluk. Amount put to tender in Lakhs:354.05

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 13-05-2022 Last Date & Time for enquiries about tender 21-05-2022 upto 5.30 P.M., Last Date for submission of Tenders 23-05-2022 upto 4.00 P.M. Opening of Technical bid Date: 24-05-2022 after 4.30 P.M (If possible). Opening of Finanical bid Date 26-05-2022 after 10.30 A.M (If possible). Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in e-portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from e-procurement help desk No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 57th ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT MAYO HALL, BANGALORE
CCH-58 Hg: 22/06/2022
O.S No. 25063/2020

Between
ICICI Bank Limited
having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007
And its Branch Office at Mythri Centre, No.4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 ...Plaintiff
And
Arshad Shariff ...Defendant

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT

To,
Arshad Shariff,
S/o, Ameer Shariff,
Aged about 52 years,
R/a: Flat No.101, Ground Floor, Azeem Residency, 8th Main, 2nd Cross, Byrasandra, Jayanagara 3rd Block, Bangalore-560911
...Defendant

Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs. 8,28,254.37/- as on 26/11/2019 along with interest at 14.01% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear the 57th Additional City civil & Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH 58] in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on 22.06.2022 at 11A.M.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this 9th day May 2022

By order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Maya Hall Unit Bengalare

Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No.109, Commerce House 9/1, Cunningham Road, Bangalore-560052

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the undersigned, would like to bring to the notice of General Public that the below mentioned documents in respect of the schedule property, jointly owned by SRI A. S. SUBRAMANIAN, S/O Sri A.V. Sriramamurthy, AND SMT. CHANDRAKALA SUBRAMANIAN was lost and could not be traced. Accordingly a police complaint has been filed having registration number BLRC2022050513 dated 05.05.2022.

PROPERTY DOCUMENT DETAILS
Possession certificate PR No. 19/83-84 dated 05-07-1983

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing site and residential building bearing no. 227, 1C Cross, 18th Main, HAL 2nd 'A' Stage, Bangalore-560008 measuring East to west 12.20 mts, North to South 9.15 Mts. in all measuring 111.63Sq. Mts or 1200 Sq. Ft. bounded on the:

East by : Site No. 242
West by : IC Cross Road
North by : Site No. 228
South by : Site No.226

Any one finding the aforesaid document is hereby requested to hand over the same to the undersigned in person to the undersigned in person within 7 days. Transaction done any person other than SRI A.S. SUBRAMANIAN, S/o Sri A.V. Sriramamurthy, AND SMT. CHANDRAKALA SUBRAMANIAN on the Schedule Property is not binding and such person cannot raise any claim thereafter on the Schedule Property.

RAJITHA TO
R & J ASSOCIATES,
Advocate and Legal Consultants,
241, 6'th Cross CMH Road Cross,
Indiranagar,Bangalore-560038
Ph:8050060006

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair
VACANCY NOTICE

The last date for receipt of applications in ANIIDCO for the post of DGM(T), EE(C), SM(P&A) is extended upto 06/06/2022 (05:00 PM). For details visit:

https://www.andaman.gov.in Or https://erecruitment.andaman.gov.in.

General Manager (P&A)

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I **LEELA JOHN** W/o, John Mc R/o #3, anugrah, 11th Cross, maruthi Layout Basarahalli Main Road, hebbal Kempapura,b'lore-24 have changed my name to G Leela Agnes for all purposes.

EDUCATIONAL

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KANDLUR Chandrashekar Jogi, R/a No.29, 31st A Cross, Jayanagar, 7th Block, Bangalore-560070 have changed my name to Kandlur Narasimha Chandrashekar, vide affidavit dt: 10.05.2022 sworn before Notary Jayappa.A, B'lore.

I, MEGHA Mayuri D O B 15-02-1994, W/o Vaibhav Anshuman Singh, R/o #2399, Sri Lakshmi Nilayam, N.R. Colony, Murugeshpalya, Bengaluru-560017 have changed my name from Megha Mayuri to Megha Vaibhav Singh vide affidavit dt: 13/05/2022 before Notary A.R.Munaer Ahmad, B'lr

I, LATA Mahadev Kawale, Spouse of No. 10490305K, Rank: LNK, Name: Amol Belavalekar, presently R/a Vill: Kurukali, PO: Sonage, Teh: Kagal, Dist: Kolhapur, State: Maharashtra have changed my name from Lata Mahadev Kawale to Lata Amol Belavalekar, vide affidavit dt: 14.02.2022 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, B'lore.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AND CJM AT MYSURU
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 566 OF 2021

BETWEEN:
ICICI Bank Ltd.
A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390007 & having its Branch office at ICICI Bank Ltd., Setty Mansion, No. 34/2,3,4, Ground Floor, Rambavilas Road, Mysuru-570 024.
And Represented by its POA holder and Manager
Mr. Swamy.G.K. Aged about 34 years, S/o. **Gangadharappa**
...PLAINTIFF

AND
Mr. B. SUNIL RAJ
...DEFENDANT

Summons to the defendant by way of paper publication.

To,
Defendant:
Mr. B. SUNIL RAJ,
Aged about 32 years, Son of Basvaraj, R/at. # 65, Cross, Bestara Blocks, Stage, F Roa, Vidyaranyapuram, Mysuru-570008.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs.10,65,735/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Sixty Five Thousand Seven Hundred And Thirty Six Only) together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Pri Senior Civi Judge and C.J.M. at Mysuru, in person or by a pleader on the **24th Day of June 2022** at 11:00 am to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined exparte

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 5th day of May 2022.

By order of the Court,
Chief Ministerial
Prl.Senior Civil Judge Court Mysuru

Advocate for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED,
B.M. KUSHALAPPA,
Officer Advocates,
No.4(10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore-560001

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AND CJM AT MYSURU
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 565 OF 2021

BETWEEN:
ICICI Bank Ltd.
A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390007 & having its Branch office at ICICI Bank Ltd., Setty Mansion, No. 34/2,3,4, Ground Floor, Rambavilas Road, Mysuru-570 024.
And Represented by its POA holder and Manager
Mr. Swamy. G.K. Aged about 36 years, S/o. Gangadharappa
...PLAINTIFF

AND
Mr. B.C. Ashok Kumar,
...DEFENDANT

Summons to the defendant by way of paper publication.

To,
Defendant:
Mr. B.C ASHOK KUMAR,
Aged about 55 years, Son of C.L.Bilidegalu, R/at. # 55, Srilakshmi, B' Block 3rd Stage, Kantoor Road, Vijay Nagar, Mysuru-570017

Whereas the plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs.8,57,365/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand Three Hundred And Sixty Five Only) together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Pri. Senior Civi Judge and C.J.M at Mysuru, in person or by a pleader on the 24th Day of June 2022 at 11:00 am to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined exparte

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 5th day of May 2022.

By order of the Court,
Chief Ministerial
Prl.Senior Civil Judge Court Mysuru

Advocate for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED,
B.M. KUSHALAPPA,
Office Advocates,
No.4(10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore-560001

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 73rd ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT MAYOHALL, BANGALORE (CCH 74)
O.S. No. 25719/2021
Hg: 10/06/2022

Between
ICICI Bank Limited
having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007, And its Branch Office at Mythri Centre, No.4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068 ...Plaintiff
And
Mr. Karthik P ...Defendant

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT

To,
Mr. Karthik P
S/o. Selvam Panner, Aged about 31 years, R/a: #20/2, 1st Main Road, Hanumanthapuram, Sriramapuram, Bangalore- 560021 **Defendant**

Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking Recovery of **Rs. 3,74,108.31/-** as on **08/03/2021** along with interest at **24% p.a** and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the 73rd Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore **[CCH 74]** in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on **10.06.2022** at **11 A.M.** Take Notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Court, this **09th** day of **April, 2022.**

By order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No.109, Commerce House, 9/1, Cunningham Road, Bangalore- 560052

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 73rd ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT MAYOHALL, BANGALORE (CCH 74)
O.S. No. 26552/2020
Hg: 14/06/2022

Between
ICICI Bank Limited
having its Registered office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007, And its Branch Office at Mythri Centre, No.4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068 ...Plaintiff
And
Malini Suresh Babu ...Defendant

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT

To,
Malini' Suresh Babu,
S/o, Venkata Narasimham, Aged about 36 years, R/a: #8, 1st Floor, Lakeview Meenakshi Layout, Ist Main, Opp. KSRP Compound, Hosa Road, Parappana Agrahara, Bangalore- 560100 **Defendant**

Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking Recovery of **Rs. 14,76,959.16/-** as on **28/10/2020** along with interest at **24% p.a.** and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the 73rd Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore **[CCH 74]** in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on **14.06.2022** at **11 A.M.** Take Notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Court, this **09th** day of **April 2022.**

By order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No.109, Commerce House, 9/1, Cunningham Road, Bangalore- 560052

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 57th ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT MAYOHALL, BANGALORE (CCH 58)
O.S. No. 25689/2020
Hg: 08/07/2022

Between
ICICI Bank Limited
having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007, And its Branch Office at Mythri Centre, No. 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068 ...Plaintiff
And
Lokesh SN, ...Defendant

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT

To,
Lokesh SN,
Aged about 32 years,
S/o, Narayana, R/a: #25, Chellrigatla, Kengeri, Near Rajarajeshwari Hospital, Bangalore-560058 **Defendant**

Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking Recovery of **Rs. 2,41,970.81/-** as on **07/02/2020** along with interest at **24% p.a.** and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the 57th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore **[CCH 58]** in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on **08.07.2022** at **11 A.M.** Take Notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Court, this **09th** day of **May, 2022.**

By order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No.109, Commerce House, 9/1, Cunningham Road, Bangalore- 560052

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Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, MAY. 14	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:37
RISE 16:57	SET 04:15
SUNDAY, MAY. 15	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:38
RISE 17:56	SET 05:00
MONDAY, MAY. 16	
RISE 05:54	SET 18:38
RISE 18:58	SET 05:49

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	26	20

Bengaluru Today
24°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
25°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail.Night will be pleasant. One or two spells of rain and thundershower to occur.

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High security plates only for vehicles registered after April 1, 2019

Clarification comes from Transport Department in the backdrop of traffic police insisting on motorists replacing their old number plates with HSRP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Prasanna Kumar, a two-wheeler owner, was stopped by the traffic police in Vijayanagar earlier this week. After checking his DL and insurance, one of the policemen asked him why he had not got the high-security number plate.

"When I told him it was only for new vehicles, he insisted that all vehicles have to get it and repeatedly asked why I hadn't got one yet. I asked him for the deadline to fix one. He didn't give me a proper reply. He backed off only when I repeatedly told him that it's only for new vehicles. I was lucky. I'm sure many people get penalised illegally for this," he said.

As similar complaints of traffic police insisting that motorists replace their old vehicle number plates with High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) are pouring in, the Transport Department and city traffic police division have clarified that HSRP is not mandatory for vehicles that were registered prior to April 2019.

A file photo of a High Security Registration Plate being fixed on a two-wheeler.

1.75 crore vehicles

More than 1.75 crore vehicles were registered before April 2019 in Karnataka. Motorists have been complaining about the traffic police insisting on them replacing the old number plates. Some vented their ire on social media complaining that police penalised them on the charge of fixing 'faulty number plates'.

Another motorist, Shiva B., told *The Hindu*, "I have been using my bike for over six years. Recently, the traffic police, while checking the vehicle documents, asked me why I had failed to replace the old number plates with new ones. I had an argument with the cop for some time over the high security number plates. I did not get a convincing answer from them."

Not mandatory for old vehicles

Responding to the complaints, Transport Commissioner N. Shivakumar said, "HSRP is not mandatory for old vehicles. It has come into effect from April 2019 and manufactures, through licenced vendors, have to fix the registration plates. Earlier, we had floated a tender to identify vendors for supply and installation of the HSRP. However, the process was stalled due to legal issues. Now, the Karnataka Government has to decide on the issue," he said.

Motor vehicles rules

Mr. Shivakumar further said that the traffic police cannot insist on High Security Registration Plates for old vehicles.

"Number plates have to be installed as per the specification of the motor vehicles rules. As per the existing rules, a penalty can be imposed against motorists for using defective number plates," he added.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Traffic (West) Kuldeep Kumar R. Jain echoed the same sentiment. He said, "No instructions have been given to the traffic police to insist that motorists replace the old number plates with the new ones. They have to follow applicable rules on number plates."

2,800 potholes marked by civic officials on Fix My Street app

From Monday, the general public can start marking potholes in their surroundings on the application

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A total of 2,800 potholes were marked by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials until Thursday on the Fix My Street app.

From Monday, the general public can also start marking potholes in their surroundings on the app. Once verified, a work order will be automatically generated to fill the pothole.

Earlier this week, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath had said that zonal level civic officials will map the potholes under their jurisdiction on the app until Thursday. He had also mentioned that photographs of the potholes would also be attached.

A senior BBMP official said that this time has now been extended up to Saturday as feeding of data to the app is a multi-step process. "They (Assistant Engineers and Assistant Executive Engineers) have to inspect the roads, take photographs, measure the potholes and then upload it on the app. It takes time," he explained.

No duplication

He added that the app is set up in a way to avoid duplication of entries. "If a pothole, which is already marked by the officials, is marked again by a citizen, then it is not considered as a new pothole."

Orders for bitumen

The official also added that the teams have already placed orders for bitumen for the potholes which are already marked by the officials. "Once this process ends on Saturday and we have the final numbers, we will get started with the work," he said.

Three organ donations in a day; 45 in total so far this year

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

Karnataka has seen almost a two-fold rise in cadaveric organ donations in the first quarter this year compared to the corresponding period last year. While 25 donations were recorded from January till May end in 2021, the State has already seen 45 this year till May 13. This includes a donation by a 97-year-old male donor in the city.

With three back-to-back cadaveric organ donations on a single day on Wednesday, 14 donations have been recorded in the last month alone.

Dhanraj, Chandrashekhar, and Suresh N., the three organ donors who give a new lease of life to many in Bengaluru and Mysuru. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Steady rise

Although cadaveric organ donations had almost come to a halt during the pandemic, there has been a steady rise in the last few months, especially after organ donations by celebrities.

Jeevasarthakathe, the State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO), which is the nodal agency that facilitates cadaver organ donations, recorded 35 donations in 2020, retrieving 167 organs and tissues (including corneas and heart valves). In 2021, 70 cadaveric donations were recorded, retrieving 284 organs and tissues. Likewise, in 2019 as many as 105 cadaveric donations were facilitated through Jeevasarthakathe (wherein 511 organs and tissues were retrieved).

Authorities from Jeevasarthakathe said the three donations were all from young donors. The first donation happened at BGS Apollo in Mysuru where a daily wager, Dhanraj, 28, was declared brain dead. He had epilepsy and fell down in his house following seizures. His vital organs - liver, left kidney and heart valves - were transported to hospitals in Mysuru and Bengaluru, including the State-run Institute of Nephro Urology and Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences.

Pregnant wife's gesture

Another case is of Chandrashekhar, a 32-year-old field technician at Namdhari Seeds Pvt. Ltd., who suffered a head injury after falling from his bike. He was initially admitted to Bharath Kempanna hospital and later shifted to Sparsh Hospital in R.R. Nagar. He was on a ventilator for two days and declared brain dead on May 11. Following consent by his pregnant wife, his vital organs were harvested and donated to various hospitals.

The third donor – a security guard, Suresh N., 33, who also suffered a severe head injury after he was hit by a car (he was walking with his bicycle) near Dabaspet – was shifted to Manipal Hospital, Whitefield after Kanwa Sri Sai Hospital on May 6. He was declared brain dead on May 11 and his family consented for donation. His skin has also been donated to Victoria Hospital's skin bank.

Last month, for the first time, three green corridors were created on a single day in Mangaluru and Bengaluru to transport organs that gave a new lease of life to many. In fact, donated lungs at a hospital in Bengaluru were transported to KIMS, Secunderabad.

Families' reluctance

Lijamol Joseph, Jeevasarthakathe Chief Transplant Coordinator, said awareness on organ donations has increased. "However, there is still some kind of reluctance by family members to give consent. This year, till May 13, we missed eight such donors. Although they were declared brain dead, the families did not consent for organ. It is important to have awareness campaigns on organ donations on a continuous basis," she said.

Demand-supply gap

Although there has been a steady rise in the number of donations, the number of patients in need of organ transplantation is also increasing. With as many as 5,309 patients waiting for various organ transplants in Karnataka (including 4,065 for kidneys and 1,069 for liver) as of May 13, the demand-supply gap in organ transplantation in the State is only widening, according to doctors.

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Email : ho@kspcb.gov.in Website : www.kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No.PCB/109/SEO/MINES/EPH/2022-23/961 Dated: 12.05.2022

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

The Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited has proposed to undertake quarrying of ordinary sand Umalipannur Sand Block of capacity 1,04,409 TPA over an area of 25.00 Acres (10.11 Ha) located in Tungabhadra River Bed at Sy. No. 3, 4, 141/2 & 148, Umalipannur Village, Manvi Taluk, Raichur District. The project proponent has to obtain Environmental Clearance from SEIAA, Government of Karnataka, as per the EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006 (as amended on 01.12.2009), and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing. As per the SEIAA, Government of Karnataka, Terms of Reference letter (ToR) No. SEIAA 443 MIN 2021 dated: 06.12.2021 and request of the project proponent letter dated 02.02.2022; the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the Board.

The details of the project are as follows:

1.	**Name of the Company & Address: Managing Director, The Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited 3rd Floor, KHB Shopping Complex, National Games Village, Koramangala Bangalore- 560047**
2.	**Location of Proposed Quarry: Sy Nos. 3, 4, 141/2 & 148, Umalipannur Village, Manvi Taluk, Raichur District, Karnataka.**
3.	**Details of proposed activity: Quarrying of Ordinary Sand of capacity 1,04,409 TPA.**
4.	**Pollution control measures:** Mobile toilet will be provided for the disposal of domestic waste water generated during the operations of sand mining activities. Regular sprinkling of water on haul and access roads. Regular maintenance of all equipment to minimize particulate matter and gaseous emissions from diesel engines. Plantation of thick greenbelt is provided around lease area boundary. The green belt will be provided within and around the plant to control fugitive emission.
5.	**Date, time and venue of environmental public hearing: 13.06.2022 (Monday) at 10:00 AM at Umalipannuru Village, Manvi Taluk, Raichur District.**
6.	**Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are:** (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Raichur District, Raichur (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Raichur (c) District Industries Centre, Raichur (d) Taluk Panchayath, Manvi (e) Village Panchayath Office, Saadapura. (f) Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Raichur (g) SEIAA, Karnataka (Ecology and Environment), Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka, Room No. 706, 7th Floor, 4th Gate, MS Building, Bengaluru–01 (h) **HELP DESK,** Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru–560 001

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. They can also make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Raichur District, Raichur). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details please visit our Website: **kspcb.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

AVOID USE OF PLASTICS, BE ECO-FRIENDLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that my client is intending to develop the property described in the schedule hereunder by entering into JD agreement with its owner R.C. BASAVARAJ, Aged about 59 years, S/o. Chikkaranjappa, Residing at No.575, 4th Cross,HMT Layout, R.T.Nagar,BANGALORE-560032. Any person/s having any claim over the schedule property may lodge his/her/ their objections or claims in writing with all documentary evidence with regard to such claims, to the under signed within 7 days hereof, failing which my client will proceed to complete the agreement. Any objections/ claims received thereafter will not be entertained/binding upon my client.

SCHEDULE PROEPRTY:

Immovable property being converted land bearing Sy.No.124/3 & 125, vide conversion order bearing No.1. BDS/ ALN/ SR/ (NA) 221/2002-03,2.BDS/ALN/SR/(NA)228/ 2002-03 and 3.BDS/ALN/SR/(NA)215/ 2002-03, all dated 23-01-2003 Situated at Amruthahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West 1221 feet 6 inches + 224 feet 2 inches/ /2 and North to South 87 feet 5 inches, totally measuring 19481 Sq feet or17.89 Guntas presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP, BBMP khata No.1305/1571/124/3 & 125, ward No.7, PID No.1571/124/3/125 and bounded as follows: EAST BY: Private Property, WEST BY: 40 Feet Road, NORTH BY : Site No.1, SOUTH BY: Site No.3.

C. R. Prathima, Advocate
Room No.9,HotelJeneetha Building, H.Siddaiah Road, Wilson Garden, Bangalore-27

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client **Vikram Chugh** intends to purchase the properties described in the Schedule hereunder from the owners. Any person/s, firms, societies, institutions (corporate or otherwise) claiming to have any right, title, interest, benefit, claim or demand in, or to the Schedule Properties and/or any part thereof, by way of sale, agreement, exchange, gift, grant, lease, tenancy, license, assignment, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, family arrangement/ settlement, encumbrance, inheritance, bequest, easement, possession, maintenance, development rights, order/decree/judgment of any Court/Statutory Authority, agreement, understanding or otherwise howsoever, to the Schedule Properties is required to intimate the same in writing together with true copies of all documentary proof in support thereof, to the undersigned, at the address given below, within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, our client shall proceed ahead to purchase the Schedule Properties and no further claims in respect of the Schedule Properties would be considered any time thereafter.

Schedule Properties

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the below detailed land parcels, all situated at Boomenahalli Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Karnataka and bounded by :

Sl No.	Survey Number/s	Extent Acre/s	Extent Gunta/s	Boundaries (E: East, W: West, N: North & S: South)
1.	Sy. No. 28	02	27	E: Sy. No. 29 W: Land belongs to S. Somanna N: Land belongs to Ramanjinappa S: Land belongs to B.S. Nagesh
2.	Sy. No. 25 (Old Sy. No. 25/P3)	02	00	E: Road W: Land belongs to B.S. Satish N: Land belongs to Ramanjinappa S: Land belongs to Ashwathnarayanashetty
3.	Sy. No. 25 (Old Sy. No. 25/P6)	01	00	E: Land belongs to B.S. Suresh W: Land belongs to B.S. Nagesh N: Land belongs to S. Somanna S: Land belongs to Ashwathnarayanashetty
4.	Sy. No. 25 (Old Sy. No. 25/P6)	01	00	E:Road & Sy. No. 25/P6 belongs to Beeranna's Muniraju W: Land belongs to B.S. Sathish N: Land belongs to S. Somanna S: Land belongs to Ashwathnarayanashetty
5.	Sy. No. 25 (Old Sy. No. 25/P6)	02	00	E: Land belongs to B.S. Satish W: Land belongs to B.S. Suresh N: Land belongs to S. Somanna S: Land belongs to Ashwathnarayanashetty
6.	Sy. No. 27/2	01	07	E: Land belongs to S.Somanna W: Sy. No. 77 & Sy. No. 87 N: Land belongs to Ramanjinappa S: Land belongs to B.S. Suresh

Sd/- **S T Prashantha Kumar, Fox Mandal & Associates**, Legal Services, Primrose Road, Craig Park Layout, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560025, Phone: 080-30554100, Mobile : 8971116111.

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No.49, "Parisara Bhavana", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru - 560 001. Karnataka State. INDIA.
Ph: 25581383, 25589112, 25589113 Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail : ho@kspcb.gov.in Website : https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

NO. PCB/105/SEO/MINES/EPH/2022-23/946 Date:11/05/2022

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

The Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited has proposed to undertake Quarrying of Ordinary Sand in Choudeshwarhal Sand Block of capacity 1,31,555 TPA over an area 35.00 Acres in Krishna River bed at Sy Nos. 27/8, 31/4, 31/5, 31/6, 32/3, 33/2, 34/2 of Choudeshwarhal Village, Shorapur Taluk, Yadgiri District. The project proponent has to obtain Environmental Clearance from SEIAA, Government of Karnataka, as per the EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006 (as amended on 01.12.2009), and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing. As per the SEIAA, Government of Karnataka, Terms of Reference letter (ToR) No. SEIAA 429 MIN 2021 dated 06.12.2021 and request of the project proponent letter received at Board office dated 01.02.2022, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the Board.

The details of the project are as follows:

1. Name of the Company & Address: The Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited, 3rd Floor, KHB Shopping Complex, National Games Village, Koramangala, Bangalore- 560 047.
2. Proposed location of Quarry: Sy Nos. 27/8, 31/4, 31/5, 31/6, 32/3, 33/2, 34/2 of Choudeshwarhal Village, Shorapur Taluk, Yadgiri District, Karnataka State.
3. Details of proposed activity: Quarrying of Ordinary Sand of **capacity 1,31,555 TPA.**
4. Pollution Control Measures proposed: The waste material will be used for back filling of excavated area and strengthening of river bank. Waste Water sprinkling will be done on the roads regularly, avenue plantation, loaded vehicle will be covered with tarpaulin, regular road maintenance, green belt formation etc. Rain water harvesting, work, rejuvenation of catchment area towards up system of the sand block, All along the lease boundary garland natural water course. massive afforestation, dust suppression in the area. The rain water harvesting and ground water recharging practices will be adopted around the proposed mining area.
5. Date, time and venue of Environmental public hearing: 14.06.2022 (Tuesday) at 01:00 PM at Sy No. 27/8, 31/4, 31/5, 31/6, 32/3, 33/2, 34/2 of Choudeshwarhal Village, Shorapur Taluk, Yadgiri District.

6. Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are: (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Yadgiri District, Yadgiri. (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Yadgiri. c) District Industries Centre, Yadgiri. (d) Taluk Panchayath, Shorapur. (e) Village Panchayath Office, Choudeshwarhal. (f) Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Yadgiri. (g) SEIAA, Karnataka (Ecology and Environment), Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka, Room No. 706, 7th Floor, 4th Gate, MS Building, Bengaluru – 560 001. (h) **HELP DESK**, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. They can also make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Yadgiri District, Yadgiri). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. **For details please visit our Website: kspcb.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

"AVOID USE OF PLASTICS - BE 'ECO' FRIENDLY"

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560009

Tender Notification (Through E-Procurement portal)

Karnataka Housing Board invites tender from the eligible contractors who are empanelled & also willing to empanel in Karnataka Housing Board through E-Procurement for below mentioned work.

Last date for submission of bid: 27.05.2022 up to 4.00 PM

Sl.No.	Name of Work
1	Annual Maintenance of 'E' & 'F' block Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru for the year 2022-23. Work Indent No: KHB/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 971 & IFT No. 30 /2022-23, Date: 12.05.2022. **Amount put to tender Rs. 51,52,007/-.**

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: **Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru, Phone No. 080-22273511 / 080-22100077, website : https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/502/AKA/22-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

COVID-19 : DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS, ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED
Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY
Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary,
No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/Rurban/TDR/2022-23/ 184
Dt. 11-05-2022.

Tender Notification (Through E-portal only)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 01 work comprising of approved road & building work under Rurban scheme through e-procurement portal. Contractors are required to submit the tender before 10-06-2022 at 4.00 PM by uploading the relevant documents through e-procurement portal website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in/e-portal/index.seam by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from 12-05-2022 to 10-06-2022 at 4.00 PM. Tenders will be opened through e-proc portal on 13-06-2022 at 5.00 PM. Any changes in the notification will be published in e-procurement website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E Division, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/37/MCA/2022-23

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Kumaraswamy to undertake State-wide rath yatra in June

I will rise like a phoenix from ashes, says ex-Chief Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Blowing the poll bugle ahead of the Assembly elections in 2023, former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Friday announced that he would undertake a State-wide rath yatra after June.

"During the three-month rathyatra, I will touch every constituency and visit villages seeking a mandate for the Janata Dal (Secular) to form independent government," he said at the culmination of the nearly month-long Janata Jaladhare organised by the party to highlight water issues in the State.

Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and others take part in the Ganga Aarti during the Janata Jaladare programme at Nelamangala near Bengaluru on Friday; (below) Ganga Aarti being performed. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

The massive rally near Nelamangala attracted party workers and leaders from across the State. It had performances by artists, including the famed Ganga Aarti of Kashi .

Mr. Kumaraswamy also urged the youth leaders in the party to hold a massive rally either in Kalaburagi or Belagavi.

He brought cousins - State youth president Nikhil Kumaraswamy and Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna - to the stage, and said the onus of attracting the youth remained on them and other youth leaders in the party. :Do not worry about the criticism," he said.

Like father

Taking a cue from a statement made by Nanjavadhootha Swami on the occasion, the two-time Chief Minister said: "I will rise like a phoenix from the ashes." Earlier, referring to the promise that former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda made on the floor of the Lok Sabha that he will rise like a phoenix during the vote of no confidence that he lost, Nanjavadhootha Swami had said Mr. Kumaraswamy too was like the phoenix.

Promising to address the problems of the State, including education, health, women and farmers' issues, and unemployment among others, the JD(S) leader said: "Give me a full mandate to run five years. If I fail to meet my promise, the JD(S) will not seek your votes. The Pancha Ratna scheme should not be taken lightly. I am serious about implementing it. All communities have to live peacefully in the State and I need your support." He said that for those who take the party lightly, the attendance at the rally is an answer.

"I will not let you down and I will bring honour to you. We had not come out during COVID-19 pandemic to protect lives. Like the BJP and the Congress, we were not in a hurry."

The convention was attended by senior leaders, including party supremo Mr. Deve Gowda, State president C.M. Ibrahim, and core committee chairman Bandeppa Kashempur.

Cong. Twitter spat gets murkier as Ramya takes on youth chief

BJP wades into the controversy to highlight the differences in Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Twitter spat among Congress leaders in the State on Friday took an ugly turn with former Mandya Member of Parliament Ramya taking on the State Congress youth president Mohammed Nalapad by calling him a "boy" who is "on bail" even as the Karnataka BJP waded into the issue by alleging that the controversy has been triggered by former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's camp.

The actor-turned-politician has been in the thick of controversy in the last couple of days after she tweeted in support of former Minister and KPCC campaign committee chairman M.B. Patil after KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar alleged that Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan had met Mr. Patil to seek protection against allegations of corruption.

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar and campaign committee president M.B. Patil at a Congress meeting at Udaipur in Rajasthan on Friday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jibes at Nalapad

Late on Thursday night, Ms. Ramya took to Twitter to say, "This boy Nalapad is honourable president of IYC Karnataka (on bail) son of MLA Harris, and he is questioning my integrity. Wah!" She also tagged media reports of Mr. Nalapad's brush with law in the past. Incidentally, Mr. Nalapad, son of the Shanthinagar MLA, is seen as part of Mr. Shivakumar's camp in Karnataka Congress.

Her response came after Mr. Nalapad questioned where she was for so many years and asked why she had suddenly made an appearance now. He had also asked her which post she was eyeing. Once social media head of Congress, Ms. Ramya has long been away from limelight.

Ms. Ramya's response to Mr. Nalapad came after she had requested Congress central leader K.C. Venugopal to clear the air on accusations that she had duped the party of ₹8 crore.

Meanwhile, former Minister H.C. Mahadevappa also tweeted asking Congress leaders and workers not to get distracted. "Our competition is BJP and not Ramya. In our ideological fight, there should be no unnecessary confusion," he said.

On Friday, the ruling BJP also took the opportunity and waded into the controversy.

"Mr. Mahadevappa has been defending Ms. Ramya and is not in favour of Mr. Shivakumar. Mr. Mahadevappa is a close associate of Mr. Siddaramaiah. What does it indicate. Is the Mir Sadak gang making DKS a sacrificial lamb," BJP Karnataka tweeted.

Bonhomie at Udaipur

While the tweets were coming in, the KPCC in a damage control exercise also released photographs of Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Patil in a jovial conversation with Mr. Siddaramaiah in tow at the ongoing Nav Sankalp Shivir at Udaipur in Rajasthan on Friday.

National Lok Adalat to be organised on June 25

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, Bengaluru, Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Bengaluru, and Karnataka Real Estate Appellate Tribunal, Bengaluru, will jointly hold a national Lok Adalat on June 25, 2022, on the premises of Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Bengaluru.

Types of cases

According to a release, the adalat is being held to settle/compromise the complaints/cases related to refund, delay compensation, permissible execution proceedings, in disposed off cases or any other litigation which can be settled before the Lok Adalat.

Final orders

The pre-Lok Adalat sittings will be held during all working days till June 24 between 2.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. and final orders/awards will be recorded on June 25, the release said.

For further details, call 080-22249798, 080-22249799 and 080-2222848I.

'Acid victims will get houses, ₹5 lakh for self-employment'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In a bid to support acid victims, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday announced that sites and houses under various schemes will be provided to them besides granting a financial assistance of up to ₹5 lakh to take up self-employment.

Acid attack survivors greeting Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai at the launch of a helpline in Bengaluru on Friday.

The Chief Minister made the announcement while addressing a programme of the Revenue Department organised to launch the helpline 'Hello Revenue Minister-Pension at doorsteps in 72 hours'.

"Acid attack victims undergo acute mental agony and rejection by society. It is the responsibility of the government to rush to their help. Their monthly pension has been raised from ₹3,000 to ₹10,000. Apart from this, they would be provided site and housing besides financial assistance for self-employment so that they could lead a life of dignity on their own," Mr. Bommai said.

Reiterating his government's commitment to make the administration responsive and take the services to the doors of people, the Chief Minister said: "The programme to deliver revenue documents to the doors of farmers has been launched. This will help over 50 lakh families. Also, the social security pensions should be delivered at the doors of beneficiaries. New dynamism is being induced into the functioning of Revenue Department."

He said the objective of decentralization of power is to see that the administrative machinery flows smoothly from Vidhana Soudha to the doors of the citizens seamlessly. "Power should not remain frozen in the Vidhana Soudha. It should flow like honey towards beneficiaries," Mr. Bommai said.

He stressed the need to maintain constant contact with people to ensure success of democracy.

"A massive initiative to make the administration responsive and deliver the services at the doorsteps of people has been launched. Major reforms are being initiated. This is a government with humane conscience. Our government will not hesitate to take hard decisions to improve the life of common man," Mr. Bommai said.

100 youth from each taluk to get aid through LIDKAR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State Government has decided to assist a minimum 100 youth in each taluk to get self-employed through Leather Industries Development Corporation Ltd. of Karnataka (LIDKAR), according to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Speaking at the State-level leather artisans' convention and leather crafts exhibition cum sale, Mr. Bommai said a budgetary allocation of ₹25 crore had been made for LIDKAR. More funds would be provided in the supplementary budget if LIDKAR created more employment opportunities, he noted.

He observed that the leather furniture industry had a big opportunity for LIDKAR to grow and even to capture the international market. LIDKAR could taste huge success if proper branding and marketing exercise was undertaken, he said.

The Chief Minister assured LIDKAR of providing all assistance from the government for its development and growth, particularly with respect to its quest to expand the product base, production and employment generation. In the last five years, a total grant of ₹237 crore had been provided for LIDKAR which in turn had helped 33,000 small enterprises, Mr. Bommai said.

Poor SC/ST families to get 75 units of free electricity a month

This will benefit about 39.26 lakh families: Energy Dept.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The poor from SC/ST communities in the State will now get free power of 75 units a month with effect from from May 1.

The State Energy Department issued a notification in this regard on Friday. The new scheme will benefit about 39.26 lakh families and cost an additional ₹979 crore to the State exchequer.

According to an official note, the notification follows the assurance by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on the occasion of Babu Jagjivan Ram Jayanti on increasing the free power supply to SC/ST communities coming under the Kutir/Bhagya Jyothi scheme from the present 40 units to 75 units a month. Subsequently, Mr. Bommai had announced on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti that free power up to 75 units a month would be given to all the poor SC/ST families in the State who have BPL ration cards.

The beneficiaries will have to furnish relevant documents, including caste certificates, Aadhaar cards, and BPL cards to avail the benefit. The beneficiaries have to first pay their power bills with the respective Escoms. The amount will be reimbursed to them through Direct Benefit Transfer to their bank accounts.

BJP State core committee to meet today to discuss Council, RS elections

Arun Singh to arrive in Bengaluru

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The BJP State core committee will meet in Bengaluru on Saturday to discuss issues related to the forthcoming elections to the Legislative Council and the Rajya Sabha.

Disclosing this to media persons here on Friday, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said: "We have discussed other issues during the meeting with BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel on Thursday. Issues related to the Council and Rajya Sabha elections will be discussed in detail at the core committee meeting."

Elections for seven MLC seats from the Legislative Assembly are being held on June 3 while elections four MLC seats from teachers' and graduates' constituencies are scheduled on June 13. Elections for four RS seats are being held on June 10.

In the Upper House, the BJP has an opportunity to get a clear majority in the 75-member Council so that the party can get easy passage to legislations related to its core ideology.

BJP national general secretary Arun Singh, who is also in charge of Karnataka, is set to arrive in Bengaluru on Saturday morning to hold a slew of meetings with the party leaders on the elections besides the impending elections to taluk/zilla panchayats and BBMP.

On reservation

On providing reservation for OBCs in local bodies elections, the Chief Minister said: "The BBMP election issue is being heard by the Supreme Court. Reservation has to be provided for the Backward Classes in taluk and zilla panchayat elections too. A commission has been constituted to study the political backwardness of OBCs. We have requested for more time to hold elections so that the commission can submit its report or allowing for conducting the elections as per the earlier reservation system (in which a provision had been made for reservation to OBCs)."

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

We are heart broken to announce the untimely demise of our father

Sri. R. SETURAMAN

who merged at the Lotus Feet of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on 12th May 2022.

He was a loving husband, wonderful father and an epitome of equanimity, kindness and generosity who touched the hearts of many.

He is survived by his wife **Usha** and his two sons **Balajee and Bharath,** Daughter-in-law **Anupama Balajee** and Grand Daughter **Amirta**

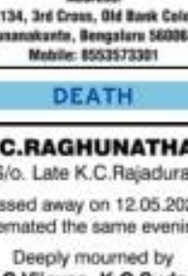
We pray to Bhagawan Baba to bless his soul.

Cremation - **Today at 12.30 pm** at the **Besant Nagar Crematorium.**

Ph: +91 73585 78036

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Mr. M R Prasad

Senior Manager - Advt Sales, The Hindu

D.O.D: 14-05-2021

Address:

No.134, 3rd Cross, Old Bank Colony, Konanakunte, Bengaluru 560062.

Mobile: 8553573301

DEATH

K.C.RAGHUNATHAN

S/o. Late K.C.Rajadurai

Passed away on 12.05.2022. Cremated the same evening.

Deeply mourned by **K.C.Vijayan, K.C.Sudan, Aparna, Sudharshan, Rajnarayan** (Raj) **& Rajshri** (Meera) and **Friends & Relatives.**

Ph: **98400-48948**

HOMAGE

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"

HOMAGE

Ms. S. Gomathy

Director

M.C.S.M. Global Investments Pvt. Ltd.

Passed away on 12.05.2022

TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram – 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu
Ph: 04324-277001 (10 Lines). E Mail: purchase.pulp@tnpl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No	Material Description	Due date
222323 000486	Bleached Hardwood Sulphate Pulp for Unit - I & II	23.05.22
222313 000800	Bleached Softwood Sulphate Pulp for Unit -I	24.05.22
222323 000487	Bleached Chemi Thermo Mechanical Pulp - Softwood 70 for Unit -II	25.05.22
222323 000488	Bleached Chemi Thermo Mechanical Pulp - Hardwood 70 for Unit -II	26.05.22
222323 000489	Bleached Chemi Thermo Mechanical Pulp - Hardwood 80 for Unit -1& II	27.05.22

Detailed Terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD are available in tender document at our websites www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL website only.

DIPR /2288 / Tender / 2022

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Due date for submission	: 31st May, 2022

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222313 000817	Procurement of Sodium Sulphate for Unit -I	23.05.22
222313 000860	Procurement of 180 GSM Kraft Reels of various sizes for Unit - I & II	26.05.22
222313 000861	Procurement of 720 GSM Kraft Corrugated Circular Disc (5Ply) - 97 CM for Unit - I & II	26.05.22
222323 000561	Procurement of Burnt Lime for TNPL Unit - II	27.05.22
Email	222313000917 - purchase.rawmat@tnpl.co.in 222313000860 & 0861 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in 222323000561 - purchaserm.u2@tnpl.co.in	

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Tender No	Material Description	Due date
222313 000659	Procurement of 1000 MT + 5% Office Waste Paper (White Records) in Loose form from Kerala for TNPL Unit-1 at Kagithapuram	24.05.22
222313 000660	Procurement of 1000 MT + 5% Office Waste Paper (White Records) in Bale form from Karnataka for TNPL Unit-1 at Kagithapuram	25.05.22

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DIPR /2287 / Tender / 2022

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Ph: 08182 - 08182-225544 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No. : SEE/EE|O|AEE|O|22-23/1562-68 Date:09.05.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Tendering Mode Only)

MESCOM invites division wise bids from registered suppliers for providing services of Trucks/Lorries to following O&M Division of Shimoga Circle on monthly rental basis for transportation of materials for a period of ONE year.

Sl.No.	Division	No. of vehicle	Sl.No.	Division	No. of vehicle
1.	Shivamogga	02	3.	Sagar	01
2.	Bhadravathi	01	4.	Shikaripura	01

The bids will be received through Electronic Tendering mode only. The details of tender notification can be obtained by logging on to www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after **16.05.2022**. Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

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Notification No. DPS70PUR(B)2021-22/PPR_BDS Date: 13.05.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT)

Online Tenders are invited for the **Supply of Copier Paper, MG Kraft, MF Boards & Colour Printing Paper** under rate contract. Estimated total value of the tender is about Rs. 323.00 Lakhs & total EMD prescribed for the tender is as per the following:

Sl. No.	Schedule	Description	EMD in Rs (in Lakhs)
1.	I	Copier Paper	3.65
2.	II	MG Kraft Paper	3.00
3.	III	MF Boards	5.00
4.	IV	Colour Printing Paper	4.50

Pre-bid meeting shall be on **Date: 27.05.2022, 11.30 AM** & Last date for submission of tender **13.06.2022, 17.30 hrs**. For details please visit Website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. For any further clarifications the above office may be contacted.

DIPR/CP\Advt\909/2022-23

Sd/- Director

IN BRIEF

Young model found dead in Kerala; husband held

KOZHIKODE

Model, Shahna Sajad, 21, was found dead at her rented house at Parambil Bazaar in Kozhikode district on Friday. Her husband, Sajad, was taken into custody after the girl's parents raised suspicion about the incident and alleged murder. The death reportedly took place on Thursday and there were deliberate attempts to cover up the details, they claimed.

Amit Shah to visit Telangana today

HYDERABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to give a clarion call to people of Telangana to elect the Bharatiya Janata Party to power in the next Assembly elections and vote out the "corrupt and dynastic regime of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi" at the public meeting which he will be addressing at Thukkuguda in Rangareddy district on Saturday evening.

K-Rail: Muraleedharan flays Kerala government

KOCHI

Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan has asked how the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government, which is not even able to pay salary to the employees of the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), will implement the SilverLine semi-high-speed railway project expected to cost over one lakh crore. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) is trying to gain commission through the rail project while having scant regard for the concerns raised by the common man, he said.

'Centre is not imposing Hindi or any other language on T.N.'

It is keen on promoting all regional languages, says Governor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

The Central government did not impose Hindi or any other language on Tamil Nadu, Governor R.N. Ravi said at the 37th convocation of Bharathiar University on Friday.

"An impression has been created that the Government of India is trying to impose Hindi on Tamil Nadu. Or any language for that matter. This is far from the truth and is incorrect," he said after Minister for Higher Education K. Ponmudy had appealed to the Governor to appreciate the fact that the State had for long adopted a two-language policy.

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi. • SIVA SARAVANAN S.

Mr. Ravi said the Central government, in fact, was keen on promoting all regional languages as could be seen in the thrust it had given to mother tongues in the National Education Policy. In a recent conference of the Justices of High Courts too, the Prime Minister had spoken about making regional languages the official court language.

The Prime Minister had emphasised the point that those knocking on the courts' doors should understand the justice delivered to them, he said and added that the University Grants Commission had also suggested using regional languages as the medium of instruction in law colleges.

Praising the ancientness of Tamil and its rich content, the Governor said the State government should consider setting up Tamil chairs in universities in other States and not confine itself to Tamil chairs in institutions in European countries and the United States of America. It was with the idea of spreading Tamil in the north that the Prime Minister had facilitated the establishment of the Subramanya Bharathi chair in the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, he said.

Higher Education Minister Ponmudy said Tamil Nadu had adopted the two-language policy, teaching English and Tamil to students – the former for international use and the latter for regional use. The two languages were sufficient. He requested the Governor to understand the State government's stand on the issue that it was for the two-language formula and was not opposed to Hindi but only its imposition and convey it to the Centre.

PG medical student dead in hospital

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

A second-year post-graduate medical student was found dead at Government Medical College, Nizamabad, on Friday. The medico, G. Swetha, 27, was a student of obstetrics and gynaecology. The exact cause of death is not known yet.

According to the police, Swetha was on duty from 2 p.m. to 11. 30 p.m. It was learnt that all doctors were usually loaded with work. However, the work was comparatively less on Thursday. After 11.30 p.m., she went to duty doctors room and slept. "At 6 a.m. on Friday, doctors tried to wake her up. As she did not respond, they checked the pulse and declared her dead," the police said.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Heat wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Jammu, south Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	48	34.0	24.3	Kozhikode	11	31.1	23.4
Ahmedabad	–	43.3	28.4	Kurnool	9	37.6	24.9
Aizawl	1	28.0	21.9	Lucknow	0.4	42.0	27.9
Allahabad	–	46.6	28.8	Madurai	–	39.9	26.4
Bengaluru	2	26.3	20.0	Mangaluru	1.9	31.5	24.0
Bhopal	–	45.1	26.4	Mumbai	–	34.8	28.2
Bhubaneswar	–	35.2	26.7	Mysuru	32	30.0	18.2
Chandigarh	0.2	41.7	28.6	New Delhi	–	42.5	28.1
Chennai	6	35.3	24.7	Patna	–	39.5	27.0
Coimbatore	–	31.8	22.1	Port Blair	5	31.4	24.9
Dehradun	2	36.4	21.6	Puducherry	72	33.2	23.0
Gangtok	4	20.2	16.3	Pune	–	36.7	25.6
Goa	–	31.6	27.2	Raipur	–	41.0	30.2
Guwahati	35	28.2	24.4	Ranchi	–	38.2	24.7
Hubballi	–	31.0	23.0	Shillong	43	18.8	16.9
Hyderabad	–	38.0	25.5	Shimla	–	31.7	20.4
Imphal	23	24.7	20.8	Srinagar	–	30.0	14.1
Jaipur	–	45.2	33.2	Thiruvananthapuram	24	31.5	22.9
Kochi	18	29.6	23.6	Tiruchi	–	36.9	26.0
Kohima	25	21.0	12.0	Vijayawada	–	36.6	26.4
Kolkata	17	35.0	28.2	Visakhapatnam	–	34.5	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	12	.38	228	150	
Bengaluru	11	32	.17	79	93	
Chennai	4	24	.70	35	50	
Delhi	14	44	.45	257	187	
Hyderabad	4	20	.43	81	92	
Kolkata	11	14	.21	69	112	
Lucknow	8	83	.50	163	137	
Mumbai	–	–	114	298	179	
Pune	33	59	.46	163	100	
Visakhapatnam	18	29	.14	70	93	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Samastipur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 281 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gummidipoondi, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 11

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

T.N. MP reaches out to Madhya Pradesh child rape survivor

DMK MP Senthilkumar visits the family; gives ₹1 lakh

P.V. SRIVIDYA
DHARMAPURI

A pinned tweet by Dalit Voice with the partially blurred image of a brutalised 11-year old girl in Madhya Pradesh, who was raped, had drawn the attention of the DMK's Member of Parliament from Dharmapuri S. Senthilkumar, who visited the child at the Indore Medical College Hospital on Thursday.

The girl, who is from a family of wage labourers in Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh, had undergone colostomy and will also require a reconstruction surgery.

"The child has a bag that is carrying out the function of her anus. Her vagina and her intestines are damaged," the MP told *The Hindu* on Friday.

'Bachchon ka Mama'

"The child's mother said something hard-hitting. 'We call the Chief Minister [Shivraj Singh Chouhan] Bacchon Ka Mama (uncle of children). But he has not done anything," said the MP.

The 34-year old man accused of the crime is Deepak Yadav, who has since been arrested. But the family's battle has only just begun. "The family had sold their house and had already spent a lot of money. Their district collector had only given them ₹50,000 for the treatment," said Dr. Senthilkumar.

The DMK MP's attention was first drawn to the case after he was tagged on Twitter. He then reached out through Dalit Voice, the organisation that had pinned the tweet.

"It had taken a week to ascertain what was needed because of the language barrier and the inability to reach the family," said Dr. Senthilkumar.

"I wanted to focus on cases that were not receiving attention or help," he said.

The DMK MP had handed over ₹1 lakh to the family as support.

AICC yet to inform me about expulsion: Thomas

KPCC chief says he is out of the party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Dissident Congress leader K.V. Thomas on Friday appeared to question the "speculation" that the Congress had expelled him from the party's primary membership.

He told reporters in Kochi that the All India Congress Committee (AICC) was yet to inform him of any penal action. Prof. Thomas is an AICC member. Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president K. Sudhakaran had said in Jaipur on Thursday that the party had expelled him. Later, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said the KPCC decision had the imprimatur of the AICC.

Prof. Thomas had earned the ire of the Congress leadership by defying a diktat from AICC president Sonia Gandhi and attending a Communist Party of India (Marxist)-hosted seminar on federalism at the party's 23rd congress last month.

On Thursday, he threw down the gauntlet to the Congress leadership by sharing the stage with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at the Left Democratic Front's convention for the Thrikkakara byelection.

KPCC decided that Prof. Thomas, a party veteran, had crossed the Rubicon and expelled him.

Mr. Thomas had earlier said he would not join the LDF.

Cool break

Respite from heat: Children taking a dive at the fishing harbour as motor boats and trawlers remain anchored due to the fishing holiday for conservation, in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. • K.R. DEEPAK

Buddhavanam to be inaugurated today

The Buddhist heritage theme park in Telangana is spread across 274 acres

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Ahead of Buddha Purnima on May 16, Buddhavanam, a Buddhist heritage theme park developed by the Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation at Nagarjunasagar in Nalgonda district, is all set to be inaugurated on Saturday.

Minister for IT, Industries and Municipal Administration K.T. Rama Rao along with chairman of the Telangana State Legislative Council G. Sukender Reddy, Ministers G. Jagadish Reddy and V. Srinivas Goud will inaugurate the theme park, developed in an area of 274 acres on the left bank of Krishna river.

The project was executed with financial assistance from both the Central and State governments. The theme park was developed to attract local as well as foreign tourists, particularly those coming from South-East Asian countries.

All set: Buddhavanam at Nalgonda district of Telangana will be inaugurated on Saturday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

According to the project officials, it is divided into eight segments with an elegant entrance plaza - 'Buddhacharitavanam, Jatakavanam (Bodhisattva Park), Dhyanavanam (Meditation Park), Stupavanam, Mahastupa', and Buddhist education centres such as monasteries, educational institutions, Buddhist art and craft village, and budget hotels and resorts, auditoriums, a convention centre and wellness centres such as meditation centre, and traditional Buddhist medical centre.

It is going to be the first theme park in the country having many thematic segments depicting major events from the life of Gautama Buddha and his previous birth stories and miniature stupas. The State Department of Archaeology and Museums has established a Buddhist Heritage Museum on the ground floor of the Maha Stupa.

The government of Sri Lanka has donated the replica of Avukana Buddha statue (27 feet height) and Dhamma Bell under Indo-Sri Lankan Cultural Exchange programme. The Sri Lankan government has also evinced interest in building 'Simhala Vihara' complex on the premises of the Buddhavanam. The replica of Maha Stupa (Amaravathi style) with sculptural embellishments is going to be the main attraction of the theme park.

The Maha Stupa, the main attraction of the Buddhavanam project, with a width of 42 metres and 21 metres in height is embellished with sculpture panels of Buddhist themes on its drum and dome portions all around.

Inside the stupa, the ceiling is decorated with lotus petals against a sky background with 25-feet Panchadhyani Buddhas in seated postures on all four sides.

Kerala team to get ₹5 lakh each for winning Santhosh Trophy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Cabinet has decided to reward the State football team, which won the Santhosh Trophy.

All 20 players in the team and the chief coach will be given a reward of ₹5 lakh each. The assistant coach, manager and goal keeper trainer will be given a reward of ₹3 lakh each.

The Kerala team that won the Santhosh Trophy at a felicitation event in Kochi on Wednesday. • THULASI KAKKAT

Other decisions

The Cabinet, which met on Friday, also decided to compensate the four fishermen who lost their boat and fishing nets during the Ockhi cyclonic storm in November 2017.

A sum of ₹24,60,405 will be sanctioned from the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund for the fishermen.

The Cabinet approved the creation of 31 posts of women civil excise officers in various districts, as part of the efforts to increase the representation of women in the Excise department.

The government also decided to implement the pay revision of the employees of the State Pollution Control Board with effect from July 1, 2019.

Kerala CPI(M) municipal councillor held for 'rape'

Police file case under POCSO Act

STAFF REPORTER
MALAPPURAM

The Kerala police have arrested CPI(M) municipal councillor K.V. Sasikumar, who was accused of sexually abusing a large number of students during his three-decade stint as a teacher of St. Gemma's Girls Higher Secondary School at Mallappuram.

A group of former students of the school had come out against Sasikumar, accusing him of persistent sexual abuse while he was their teacher.

A police team, investigating the case on complaint filed against Sasikumar by one of the survivors, picked him up from a homestay in Wayanad and brought him here on Friday. District Police Chief Sujit Das S. said that there was only one complaint against Sasikumar. "We will register any number of cases if complainants come forward and file their charges," he said. The police said the case was filed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

Several organisations staged protests against Sasikumar and alleged that the police were helping him. Muslim Students Federation workers clashed with the police when they stopped the march.

Minister for General Education P. Sivankutty ordered an inquiry into the allegations.

Writer Kum. Vee receives another threat letter

It includes names of 20 writers, seers, and politicians

STAFF REPORTER
KALABURAGI

Writer Kum. Veerabhadrappa, popularly known as Kum. Vee, received a threat letter at his residence in Kottur, Vijayanagara district, on Friday. The six-page letter included names of 20 writers, seers, and politicians. It was the second letter that the writer received in the last one and a half months.

The writer had already met Superintendent of Police Arun K. and lodged a complaint soon after he received the first letter which was posted from Bhadravati in Shivamogga district.

Before the police could trace the offenders, the writer received the second letter, which was posted from Chitradurga. Just as the first letter, the second one was also written in hand.

Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah, JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, Congress leaders B.K. Hariprasad, Dinesh Gundu Rao and U.T. Khadar, journalist Dinesh Amin Mattu, seers Nijagunananda Swami, Nidumamidi Veerabhadra Chennamalla Swami and Jnana Prakash Swami, activists [C.S.] Dwarakanath and Bhaskar Prasad, writers Baragur Ramachandrappa, Maheshchandra Guru and Banjagere Jayaprakash, actor Prakash Rai and politicians C.M. Ibrahim and B.T. Lalitha Naik were among those named in the letter.

The anonymous writer asked why Mr. Kum. Vee and other writers, professors, intellectuals in question were time and again issuing anti-national and anti-constitutional statements and why they were making statements that insulted the Hindu community and favoured Muslims. The letter concluded with a threat of killing them if they failed to tender an apology.

"I am going to Chitradurga on Saturday to participate in a conference of the Residential Schools' Association and the letter came from the same city," Mr. Kum. Vee told *The Hindu* over phone.

Full circle

Cutting fuel taxes is a must to ensure overall macroeconomic stability

As the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party marks the eighth anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, retail inflation has accelerated close to the 8.3% level last seen in May 2014, when Mr. Modi assumed office in the last week of the month. For a government that prided itself on its inflation taming successes in the first five years, a combination of factors including the COVID-19 pandemic, high crude oil prices and now the war in Ukraine have created a perfect storm that sent the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation racing to a 95-month high of 7.79% in April. Food and fuel were the biggest culprits fanning last month's furious pace of price gains that seem unabating. Food inflation as measured by the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) quickened to a 17-month high of 8.38% last month, with rural consumers experiencing it at 8.5%, a pace that was 41 basis points faster than that experienced by their urban counterparts. Ten of the 12 items in the food and beverages basket of the overall CPI registered sequential acceleration as well. Of concern are the prices of cereals and products, which constitute almost a tenth of the CPI and account for the key staples of wheat and rice that are essential for ensuring food security. Inflation in cereals accelerated by more than 100 basis points to 5.96% last month.

With both output and government procurement of wheat set to be lower than estimated earlier and exporters seeking to corner a greater share of the crop to tap the recent surge in global demand for the grain, domestic prices have already hardened and could pose a challenge to household budgets in the coming months. Edible oil is another constituent of the food basket meriting close monitoring on the prices front. While inflation in the price of the cooking medium slowed by 151 basis points from March, the pace was still a dizzying 17.28%, with the sequential rate also a sizeable 2.52%. With the war in Ukraine having shut the tap on sunflower oil supplies from the largest global source of the commodity, unless Indonesia rescinds its ban on palm oil exports in the near future, the immediate outlook for edible oil prices is far from reassuring. Ultimately though, with inflation now having turned far more broad-based and logging a strident pace in excess of 8% for four of the six sub-groups in the CPI, policymakers have their task cut out. While the RBI must continue to tighten monetary policy in order to protect the vast majority who have no hedge against inflation, the pass-through of high oil costs, reflected in double-digit price gains in the transport and fuel and light categories, leaves the Government with little option but to cut fuel taxes if it is serious about taming inflation so as to ensure overall macroeconomic stability.

Reforming WHO

More needs to be done to enhance WHO's ability to respond to disease outbreaks

In the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi once again brought up the much-discussed issue of reforming the World Health Organization while addressing the heads of countries at the second global COVID-19 summit. That reforms are urgently needed to strengthen the global health body and its ability to respond to novel and known disease outbreaks in order to limit the harm caused to the global community is beyond debate. The long delay and the reluctance of China to readily and quickly share vital information regarding the novel coronavirus, including the viral outbreak in Wuhan, and its stubborn refusal to allow the global agency to investigate, freely and fairly, the origin of the virus have highlighted the need to strengthen WHO. But any attempt to build a stronger WHO must first begin with increased mandatory funding by member states. For several years, the mandatory contribution has accounted for less than a fourth of the total budget, thus reducing the level of predictability in WHO's responses; the bulk of the funding is through voluntary contribution. Importantly, it is time to provide the agency with more powers to demand that member states comply with the norms and to alert WHO in case of disease outbreaks that could cause global harm. Under the legally binding international health regulations, member states are expected to have in place core capacities to identify, report and respond to public health emergencies. Ironically, member states do not face penalties for non-compliance. This has to change for any meaningful protection from future disease outbreaks.

While Mr. Modi has been right in calling for reforms in WHO, the demand for a review of the health agency's processes on vaccine approvals is far removed from reality. Covaxin is not the first vaccine from India to be approved by WHO, and the manufacturer of this vaccine has in the past successfully traversed the approval processes without any glitch. The demand for a review of the vaccine approval process is based on the assumption that the emergency use listing (EUL) of Covaxin was intentionally delayed by the health agency, which has no basis. That the technical advisory group had regularly asked for additional data from the company only underscores the incompleteness of the data presented by the company. As a senior WHO official said, the timeline for granting an EUL for a vaccine depends "99% on manufacturers, the speed, the completeness" of the data. To believe that the agency was influenced more by media reports than the data submitted by the company is naive; the media were only critical of the Indian regulator approving the vaccine even in the absence of efficacy data. Also, the rolling submission began in July 2021 after the company had completed the final analysis of the phase-3 data. Any reform in WHO should not dilute the vaccine approval process already in place.

The kernel of Sri Lanka's waterfront protests

The future of Sri Lanka is volatile and uncertain but there is an undercurrent of hope being sustained by the people

RADHIKA COOMARASWAMY

For 30 days in Sri Lanka's own 'Gota go gama', a space carved out by protesters in front of the Presidential Secretariat, Sri Lankans responded to a vision of an alternative Sri Lanka — one that was democratic, non-violent, inclusive and creative; where youth would find a special place and where fear no longer would be the governing principle. Music, theatre and traditional rituals filled the space along with political chants and slogans. People from every community sought refuge at 'Gota go gama' from the daily hardship of living, irrespective of class, religion, gender or ethnicity.

Aggression has seeped in

Then came May 9 and government thugs attacked and brutally destroyed that sacred space and injured so many. That spirit of violence has now seeped into the protest movement itself and is also exploited by angry people at the local level. As protesters confronted their Jacobin streak, government supporters were beaten, humiliated and the houses of government ministers burnt to the ground. Vigilantes roamed the streets while the police and security forces seemed surprisingly indifferent. Many of the private properties of the Rajapaksas were completely destroyed. On May 11, the government began to enforce the Emergency more purposely, deterring anti-government vigilantes, telling those who were rebuilding 'Gota go Gama' that they had to go home and that the curfew would be strictly enforced. Whether this is a temporary measure during curfew or whether this entails a more decisive role for the military remains to be seen. The situation remains tense and volatile.

Before May 9, Sri Lanka was witnessing a larger social movement in the making. It was youth-led but involved a large cross-section of the people. For over a year, young people in different spaces seemed to be organising things through social media. Sceptics dismissed their mobilisation as peripheral. No one writing in the mainstream could imagine any real threat to the Rajapaksa power and authority. Strongman authoritarianism still remained the ideology of political elites. All this changed with the novel coronavirus pandemic and the massive economic crisis accentuated by man-made folly in particular economic decisions that were taken. The remoteness and the lack of communication by the government, whose members continued with their conspicuous consumption, rankled the population. Foreign exchange shortages and a debt crisis combined to completely disrupt the lives of average citizens. Confronted by fuel and gas shortages, the lack of food availability and the spiralling cost of living, a desperate population turned to its youth to express its anger and frustration.

A forum and its vision

Youth mobilisation had several components united by anger against the Rajapaksa regime. Young social activists had been organising things over the last year for a new political culture. Inspired by the Occupy Wall Street movement, Black Lives Matter, the Arab Spring, the Indian farmers' movement and Shaheen Bagh, they created an enclave for an alternative vision of Sri Lanka. The emphasis was on non-violence, democracy, ethnic harmony and creative expression. Large crowds and leading celebrities flocked each evening to 'Gota go Gama' to express their solidarity. The security forces stepped back. Fear had been broken.

These young activists were then joined by all-island student and academic unions. There was a bit of unease when this occurred, since some of the groups had a violent history, but for 30 days they joined in and extended their ful support to the peaceful protest. Trade unions, the environmental movement, professional associations, and civil society groups

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from women's groups to Rotary Clubs and religious leaders of all faiths including leading Buddhist monks, also made their way to the village. Democracy, ethnic harmony, corruption and the arbitrary alienation of assets seemed to be the major themes.

Perhaps the foremost group of heroes were the young lawyers. If any protester is arrested or manhandled, hundreds go to court to be present during the hearing and give the court some courage to stand up to the authorities. This created a safety net for the movement. Lawyers also mingled with the protesters and intervened if there was any tension or difficulty.

Every day the protesters held out the possibility of a united Sri Lanka and most observers at the site before May 9 described the scene to be vibrant and exhilarating. And, yet, the very broad-based nature of the movement made it clear that differences and tensions were also very much a part of the mobilisation. The nationalist, violent underbelly of Sri Lanka also came to the fore with the presence of some of the participants. Their active vigilantism remains a major concern. Only the active intervention of religious figures, civil society leaders and the legal profession has stopped violence in certain places.

A place for Tamil culture

One of the main questions that has been raised is why the north and the east have not participated as fully in these protests as expected. The Tamil nationalist narrative is basically to ask "Where were you when we went through dire economic consequences during the war?" and statements arguing that Tamil issues were not being addressed. What the protests have done has been to celebrate the Tamil culture and language as never before in a Sri Lankan gathering; but there is no discussion of devolution or a Tamil nation. There is also deference to the rank and file of the army – perhaps as a strategic move – that rankles many Tamil commentators. But despite this nationalist reticence, Tamils have participated at the local level and were very much a part of the hartals that have taken place throughout the island. Many from the Jaffna University Students Union and women from the north and the east have also come to 'Gota go Gama' and been quite active in their participation. On Thursday, leading northern civil society activists penned a letter in support of the protesters who had been affected by the violence on Monday.

At the political level

So where do we go from here? Until Thursday it was clear with the indefinite strikes called by all the major trade unions and the enormous uprising taking place that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa must follow his brother (the former Prime Minister) and leave office for the sake of the country – that there will be no stability unless that happens. On Thursday, Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as Prime Minister. For stability it is important that the new Prime Minister command not only the confidence of Parliament but also the confidence of the protesters as well. It is still uncertain whether Mr. Wickremesinghe is such a person though his knowledge of finance and economics is welcomed by some stakeholders.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa agreed to resign in favour of a national unity government. The lead Opposition party and the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) have insisted on the implementation of the proposals presented by the Bar Association in Sri Lanka. This would include a return to the 19th Amendment, especially its provisions on the independent judiciary and independent commissions, the abolishing of the executive presidency through a 21st Amendment, and the setting up of the economic framework for International Monetary Fund (IMF) negotiations. After that, a general election is to be held within six months. The President, in his recent address, also committed himself to some of these demands. With the government Members of Parliament so divided and the Opposition fluid in its loyalties, many worry that nothing will come to pass without constant pressure from the protesters and society in general.

If President Rajapaksa does not resign, it is still unclear whether the public, for the sake of stability, would accept a Wickremesinghe-Gotabaya Rajapaksa combination. It is the kind of "deal" that the protesters have abhorred and highlighted. It is more likely that the unrest and turmoil in Sri Lanka will persist until President Rajapaksa leaves. He would be ruling with a very unpopular Parliament and if turmoil gets out of hand, Sri Lanka may be faced with the Myanmar option – an option that the commander of the army has vehemently denied. There have been cases of security force excesses, but for the most part, there has been a striking indifference. Many who are at the protest sites say that many members of the security forces appear to support their struggle. There will be strong resistance if the Myanmar option is considered and it is unlikely that the rank and file of the security forces will support such an operation against their own communities.

Meanwhile, the IMF has signalled that it will go ahead with its negotiations since there seems to be an all-party consensus for that to happen. The future of Sri Lanka is volatile and uncertain, being on the verge of economic collapse, but there is an undercurrent of hope. The active engagement of individuals, organisations and civil society in keeping people accountable for good governance is a movement that appears unlikely to go away.

Radhika Coomaraswamy is Chairperson, International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Sri Lanka

Actions that corrode the steel frame of India

That a civil servant's pliant stance ends service neutrality hardly seems to bother the political or bureaucratic leadership

NILMADHAB MOHANTY

A letter war between two sets of retired public officials (civil servants, judges and army officers), concerning the prevailing political and social situation in the country, has been widely reported in the media. In the last week of April 2022, a group of these retirees, calling themselves as the Constitutional Conduct Group (CCG) sent an 'open letter' to the Prime Minister. In the letter, they appealed to him to call for an end to the politics of hate and violence against the minorities, particularly Muslims.

Very soon thereafter, another rival group of Concerned Citizens (CC) surfaced and rubbished the allegations as a 'false narrative', inspired by western and international lobbies.

Unfortunately, in neither of the formulations, is there any reference to the role of the civil service (of which they all were distinguished members in the past) in whatever is happening or not happening in the country, concerning law and public order and the security of citizens. It is the police and magistracy, judicial courts and other regulatory agencies — not politicians — which have been authorised and empowered by law to take preventive action against potential troublemakers, enforce the laws relating to criminal, economic and other offences, and maintain public order. In mature democracies, self-respecting public officials normally discharge their constitutional and legal responsibilities with honesty, integrity and their own conscience, firmly resisting the dictates of the vested interests. What is happening in our country?

Lessons from Partygate

Perhaps, a reference to the recent events in Great Britain will serve to clarify things, as the main features of our governance system – the cabinet system with accountability to Parliament and a permanent civil service with political neutrality as its hallmark – are patterned on the English constitutional model.

Recently, Britain's two top Ministers, Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister), Rishi Sunak, were accused of violating their own lockdown regulations for COVID-19 by attending Christmas and other parties at 10, Downing Street, London (Prime Minister's residence) in the months of November to December 2020.

A career civil servant, Sue Gray, was asked to inquire into the veracity of the charges. Of Ms. Gray, it was said that she would never want to tarnish her reputation by

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claims of a cover-up or a shoddy investigation.

She came to the finding that against the background of the restrictions on all citizens, the gatherings held were inappropriate and represented a serious failure to observe the high standards expected from top public functionaries. The public and the political establishment accepted the integrity of the exercise. Then, another wing of the civil service, the London Metropolitan Police, imposed fines on the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of Exchequer for their misdemeanour, and again both the top Ministers accepted the penalty.

An erosion in India

Can this happen in India? It might have been possible in the early years when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel created independent India's civil services, but no longer. The deterioration in standards was very visible during the National Emergency declared in 1975. The civil services, like other institutions including the judiciary, just caved in; the trend might have accelerated over the years; now, no one even talks of civil service neutrality, although there is the rare purist who could be sticking to the old standards of behaviour.

Earlier, during communal or caste riots, the Administration focused on quelling the disturbances and restoring peace in the affected locality, without ever favouring one group over the other. Now, there are allegations of local officers taking sides in a conflict. For civil servants who work with ruling politicians directly, following a political master's diktats and identifying with his interests, anticipating his views in official work and acting on them and pandering to his narrow political interests, often become easy options that put them out of harm's way.

The politician, lacking the vision and intellectual grasp of a Sardar Patel, could also reward a compliant bureaucrat by offering prized and lucrative assignments both within and outside the country. He could also have him placed in an inconvenient position or even punish him if he does not follow his line. This can happen despite the protection and safeguards in Article 311 of the Constitution. That a civil servant's pliant and submissive behaviour means an end to civil service neutrality and the norms and values that this trait demands, does not seem to bother either the political or bureaucratic leadership.

Non-negotiable values

The norms that define neutrality are: independence of thought and action; honest and objective advice; candour and ;'speaking truth to power' even if it is done in the privacy of a Minister's chamber. Associated with these norms are the personal values that a civil servant cherishes or ought to cherish, namely, self-respect, integrity, professional pride and dignity. All these together contribute to the enhancement of the quality of administration that benefits society and the people.

This objective may, however, be at a discount when politicians are eager to serve their personal and party interests, and overzealous and ambitious officials dance to their tune, thereby leading to a dilution of standards. It could also create favourable conditions for both political and bureaucratic corruption.

"Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment," wrote B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution and added, "It has to be cultivated. We must realise that our people have yet to learn it. Democracy in India is only a top dressing on an Indian soil which is essentially undemocratic."

Nilmadhab Mohanty has worked in senior positions in both national and international bureaucracies

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Law Minister's remark

The remark by the Union Law Minister, Kiren Rijiju, that "nobody should cross the Lakshman Rekha", with reference to the Supreme Court of India's decision to freeze the sedition law, was uncalled for and in bad taste. In a functioning democracy where two pillars of democracy, the executive and the judiciary, have exclusive powers independent of each other, such a remark coming from a Minister in the government exposes the fact that the former is encroaching upon the prerogative of the latter – which is a sad thing.

PRABHU RAJ R.,
Bengaluru

■ The Constitution clearly lays down the scheme of division of jurisdictions and powers between the organs of the state and vests each with the necessary rights and powers to counter any action by the other(s) should that become necessary. Given this, the Law Minister's unsolicited remarks were most avoidable. Any step taken by the judiciary which may not be to the liking of the executive should be taken in the right spirit. Ministers should be restrained from making careless and threatening remarks aimed at the judiciary, as Mr. Rijiju has done.

G.G. MENON,
Thirpunithura, Kerala

■ The Law Minister talking of a 'Lakshman Rekha' and saying that the judiciary and the Government should respect the other amounts to taking a high moral ground. It is another matter that every ruling party has exploited and taken advantage of the provisions of the sedition law if it served and suited their agendas and interests.

C.G. KURIAKOSE,
Malippara, Kothamangalam, Kerala

Proper count

A fairly accurate count of India's COVID-19 toll is precisely what this government does not want; it is unwilling to have any exercise that damages its 'good image' carefully built around the management of the novel coronavirus pandemic. Basically, the Government is playing to a domestic audience, many of whom very firmly believe that India handled the pandemic better than any other country. It is hard to imagine that this regime is totally unaware of the true magnitude of novel coronavirus-related deaths.

A. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Custodial deaths

It is unfortunate that custodial deaths are back in the news in Tamil Nadu. This is partly because of the heartless behaviour of some policemen who resort to third degree methods; what is worse is that they escape punishment. The State has not forgotten the events in Sathankulam. Though the State is being governed under the able leadership of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, custodial deaths are a blot on the law and order enforcers. Senior police officials should pay surprise visits to all police stations.

ANNA MARY YVONNE,
Chennai

An industry barely hanging by a thread

The crisis in West Bengal's jute industry is getting exacerbated, with several mills suspending operations this year. **Shiv Sahay Singh** visits mills along both banks of the Hooghly to understand the growing despair of workers, owners and farmers

More than 12 jute mills have closed between November 2021 and April 2022, putting 60,000 workers out of work. Hastings Jute Mill (above) is one of the oldest mills in the country and among the few that are still operational. (Below): The gates of of the Reliance Jute Mill, which downed its shutters on January 27, 2022, leaving 5,000 workers without jobs. • DEBASISH BHADURI

On Eid, after a brief spell of rain, the crowd that had assembled outside the Ishaque Sardar Masjid in Kankinara Nayabazar area in the morning hurriedly dispersed. After two years of pandemic-induced restrictions, this Eid was expected to be celebrated with pomp. But though people hugged and greeted each other in front of the picturesque mosque after the morning prayers, there was no palpable joy accompanying festivities.

"Livelihood is the biggest source of happiness," said Wahid Kamal, rolling up the sleeves of his fraying grey shirt and looking at his six-year-old son Atif, who was wearing a new pink shirt. Wahid and Mohammad Guddu, both workers at the Reliance Jute Mill at Bhatpara in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, explained how difficult the holy month of Ramzan had been this year after the mill closed, leaving workers with no income.

Inside the jute mill quarters, the mood was even less celebratory. Ejaz Afjal said he lent some money to his neighbour, a father of three, who, like Ejaz, has been out of work for the past few months. It was on the morning of January 27, 2022 that Wahid, Mohammad, Ejaz and nearly 5,000 workers went to Reliance Jute Mill to find a notice hanging on the gate announcing temporary suspension of work.

The crisis

The large iron gates at the entrance of the century-old jute mills on both banks of the river Hooghly are forbidding. They tend to reflect the mood of the area: during elections, posters of competing political parties are affixed to these gates; every autumn, banners and advertisements on Durga Puja adorn them; during general strikes, messages from trade unions cover them; and occasionally, small notices on white paper, announcing suspension of work, are stuck on them. The people of this region, which has witnessed terrible riots and intense political battles during the 2019 Lok Sabha and 2021 Assembly polls, fear these white notices the most.

Mill workers saw the notice waiting for them on January 1, 2022 on the large yellow painted gate of the Gondolpara Jute Mill. This sprawling mill is located near Chandannagar, on the western bank of the river, not far from the erstwhile French settlement. On March 31, the gate of the mill bore a rather unusual notice, which said that the "majdoor lines will get two more hours of electricity" – a small relief for those living there. Ever since the mill closed, power supply at the quarters had been irregular, totalling 12-14 hours a day.

Without power on a hot day, a young couple, Kanai Shaw and Renu Shaw, sat inside their small cubicle-like quarters. Renu rocked her five-month-old son, lying on the hammock, to sleep, while her four-year-old daughter ate a frugal lunch. An emaciated Renu said her husband had been out of work for the past few months. The family was hungry and helpless.

Though suspension of work is no new phenomenon, recent months have been especially difficult. Between November 2021 and April 2022, at least 12 mills along both the banks of the river downed their shutters, putting 60,000 workers out of jobs in one fell swoop. The workers of Reliance Jute Mill on the eastern bank and Gondolpara Jute Mill on the western bank all lost their jobs when this decision was taken.

According to the Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA), there are about 93 jute mills in India, of which 70 are in West Bengal. Of the 70, 54 are located in the three districts of North 24 Parganas (25), Howrah (15) and Hooghly (14). The IJMA, which dates back to 1884, estimates the number of workers at 3.5 lakh. It says about 40 lakh farmers are associated with the production and trade of the golden fibre. About 80% of the finished product - or B. Twill jute bag – is bought by the government for packaging food grains and agriculture produce like sugar.

According to industry experts, the recent crisis began last September, when the Office of the Jute Commissioner, which comes under the Ministry of Textiles, fixed the maximum price of raw jute at ₹6,500 per quintal. This decision to cap the price at ₹6,500 led to a fall in procurement (as raw jute sells in the market at a price higher than ₹6,500 per quintal) and mills decided to suspend work. A mill owner and a prominent person in the West Bengal jute industry explained the losses mill owners are incurring. At his Kolkata office, he did a quick back-of-the-envelope calculation and pegged it at ₹12 lakh a day. "The capacity of my mill is 100 tonnes a day," he said. "The market price of raw jute has climbed to ₹7,200 per quintal which is ₹700 more than the ₹6,500 cap by the government. For buying 100 quintals, I have to spend ₹7 lakh more."

Another issue which the jute mill managements of the State stress on is

non-implementation of the Tariff Commission's report for fair price of B. Twill jute bags, which has led to a loss of ₹1,500 crore to the industry, according to jute mill owners. Since September 2016, the jute industry is being reimbursed for the jute bags on a provisional temporary price. In March 2021, the Tariff Commission submitted its final report; it is still to be implemented. "Apart from spending ₹7 lakh more, we are losing ₹5 lakh because the Tariff Commission's report on B. Twill jute bags has not been implemented. How can I keep the mill open if I have to shell out ₹12 lakh a day," the mill owner asked.

While there have been no reports in the public domain about the steps taken against hoarders, the Jute Commissioner, Moloy Chandan Chakraborty, said in a statement that farmers generally dispose of their stock of raw jute by October/November every year. "Thus, there is hardly any raw jute left with the farmers," the statement said. "At present no jute of the current season is being held by farmers and jute lies with middlemen/traders and even with mills in their own name or in the name of third parties at various places. Relaxation in the upper price cap will only accrue illegitimate gains by these parties and no benefit will accrue to the farmers."

In an order on May 11, the Calcutta High Court directed the Jute Commissioner to "review and re-fix the rate" of raw jute if the notified rate cannot be adhered to. Justice Amrita Sinha's 16-page order explained the supply-related bottlenecks. It pointed out that since jute mills are legally bound to supply jute bags to the government for which they are reimbursed at the notified rate, they have no other alternative but to sell the finished products at a loss. With sustained losses, the mills are destined to close down and the already dying industry will perish in no time.

"On the other hand, if the notified rate is increased, the government may not agree to pay more for the jute bags and the idea of switching over to cheaper alternatives may be a viable option. If that be so, then the jute mills, because of exorbitant rates, may not find any takers of their products. Large scale joblessness and economic crisis is bound to follow," the order said.

Of the many issues raised by the court, one was why the price of raw jute was hiked despite a bumper growth. "There must be some loopholes which are required to be plugged. But who will bell the cat is possibly the next relevant question," Justice Sinha said.

On the mill floor

Production is an elaborate exercise. Hastings Jute Mill, one of the oldest jute mills in the country, was once the weekend retreat of the first Governor General of Bengal, Warren Hastings. The mill is located at Rishra, in Hooghly district, and was launched by the Birkmyre Brothers in 1875, with 230 looms. It is one of the mills that is still open and sees hectic activity. Bales of jute are first treated with oil and then turned into fibre through mechanised looms. The set-up is like an elaborate car assembly unit. By the time the fibres are turned into threads, they have passed over a dozen machines. Sunlight seeps through the skylight and thousands of people on the factory floor do back-breaking work on old looms. After fibres are turned into threads, they are put on a spool and woven into large bales of jute cloth to be cut and stitched into jute bags. At the end of the assembly line, there is a small set-up where jute imported from Bangladesh is processed. The fibre from Bangladesh looks, and is also considered, superior to Indian jute.

On May 5, the IJMA issued a statement that the Government of India (GoI) is considering continuing anti-dumping duties against imports of jute products from Bangladesh. "Despite the current anti-dumping duty, jute exports from Bangladesh to India, as per Government of Bangladesh statistics, have been increasing. IJMA has contended that the industry would have been completely wiped off by now, had the GoI not imposed an anti-dumping duty," the statement said. The industry body stated that Bangladesh provides cash subsidies for jute production.

According to a report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), 2022-2023, India's jute production has been declining during the last decade. The main reason for this is the decrease in acreage, which is mostly due to cultivation of crops such as paddy, maize, groundnut and sesame. The availability of various types of synthetic substitutes is also reducing the demand for jute. According to the CACP, while the average area annually under jute cultivation was 8.2 lakh hectares from 2000-01 to 2009-10, it dropped to 7.3 lakh hectares from 2010-11 to 2019-20. In 2021-22 it was 6.3 lakh hectares. However, jute production has increased this year compared to the previous year.

In the farmlands

About 50 km from the historical Hastings Jute Mill, at Astara villa in West Bengal's Tarakeshwar block, farmers expressed concern about extreme climate conditions. Ganesh Khanra and Tapan Kumar Khanra, who used to cultivate six bighas (one acre is 1.6 bigha) of jute about five years ago, now cultivate four.

Ganesh, Tapan and other farmers claimed that every bigha of jute cultivation costs ₹16,000 to ₹18,000 and the yield is about four tonnes per bigha. Based on the recommendations of the CACP, the minimum support price of jute for 2022-23 has been fixed at ₹4,750 per quintal. If one farmer produces four quintals of jute per bigha and sells it at the MSP, he barely breaks even.

The jute crop is sown in early April and harvested in July. The crop is about 6-7 ft high at the time of harvest. But as tedious as the cultivation of the golden fibre is the process of extracting the fibre from the harvest. The jute crop is left to rot in water bodies for almost 15 days. Every jute farmer in the village has a small water body. In order to extract the jute, a person has to stand in waist-deep water in these ditches in the stench and pull out the fibres. The agricultural labourers who do the hard work are not from Hooghly; they come from Gosaba and other interior areas of the Sundarbans. Their daily wage is ₹400-500, a substantial expense for farmers. In this picturesque village which was known for quality, jute farmers are slowly switching to other crops like groundnut and sesame.

No demands or protests

The issue has also turned political. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, voters of Barrackpore on the eastern bank and Hooghly on the western bank voted for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and sent two MPs to Parliament. The region has migrant workers from Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh who have worked in the mills for two-three generations.

By 2021, the voters once again turned to the Trinamool Congress. With mills closing and the policies of the Centre being largely blamed for the crisis, Barrackpore BJP MP Arjun Singh started criticising the Jute Commissioner. The change in the party's fortunes in Barrackpore created ripples not only locally, but in the entire BJP establishment. The State BJP vice-president, who vowed to protect the interests of jute workers and farmers, was summoned to Delhi and a meeting was arranged with Union Textile Minister Piyush Goyal. The development has also sparked speculation on whether Singh is using the crisis to warm up to the Trinamool Congress, the party he left in 2019 to join the BJP.

Curiously, there have hardly been any protests by trade unions in a State that has seen militant trade unionism in the past. There have been no demands that the mills open, nor have there been strikes. An administrator of a century-old jute mill in Hooghly said that there is no trade union left: "The older leaders are past their prime and a new leadership has not come up. This is an advantage as there is no interference in running the mills, but also poses problems as there is no one to take the issues relating to the mills to the people."

West Bengal Labour Minister Becharam Manna publicly praised the labourers of the jute industry. "They do not strike even though they are suffering," he said. The last incident of trade union-related violence in the State was reported in the Hooghly North Brook Jute Mill in July 2014 when workers killed the CEO over a dispute of wage cuts and Provident Fund (PF) cuts.

Dashed hopes?

As he stood a few metres away from the Weaverly Jute Mill, Rajkumar Yadav, one of the representatives of a national trade union, said he had high hopes from the tripartite meeting held of Central and State officials and stakeholders of the jute industry on May 9. A layer of dust on the mill gates made it difficult to read the notices pasted on it. The mill closed in November 2020. Yadav said the days of trade unionism were over. He claimed that several retired employees had not got their PF dues because the management did not deposit its share. "Hundreds of workers in each mill have not got their PF. But you will not see even a handful of complaints at the office of the Labour Commissioner," he said. In almost all the mills, the workers and retired employees do not know who to approach if their PF is denied. "Sometimes they do not want to vacate the quarters," the union leader said. The closed jute mills are also witnessing reverse migration, with workers from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh going back to their homes after the mills closed.

Every closed jute mill is a unique story of despair. Gauripur Jute Mill has been closed since 1997. The workers remember that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had visited the area in 2010 and given assurances to the workers. Hanuman Jute Mill in Howrah closed in December 2021, New Central Jute Mill closed in 2015 in Bidge Bidge (South 24 Parganas) and Kolkata Jute Mill in January 2021 in the city.

Even the jute mills that are open hardly present a picture of hope. Not far from Reliance Jute Mill is Nadia Jute Mills which, according to the workers, is "operational somehow". The mill workers' quarters, which extend till the bank of the river, are in a dilapidated state. Last October, the roof of the workers' quarters came crashing down and five people had to be rescued by firefighters. Arjun Majhi, a mill worker, said his cow died in the incident. "We do not know who owns and runs the mill. Who do we ask for repairs," Arjun asked. The roofs of the quarters are hanging at several places, the pillars have tilted, and one water tap that was meant for over 20 families has dried up. The only object that stands as a reminder of the present is a large cut-out of Lord Ram with his bow and photographs of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee wishing people on Ram Navami. Everything else, including the fate of the workers and the industry they belong to, appears to be hanging by a thread.

FROM PAGE ONE

SC declines to stay J&K delimitation report

The court ordered the government to file its affidavit in six weeks and gave the petitioners two weeks to submit their rejoinder.

The Election Commission has also been asked to respond. The case was posted for August 30. The petition also questioned why J&K has been "singled out" for delimitation when Article 170 of the Constitution said that such an exercise for the entire country was due only in 2026. The petition argued that the Centre had usurped the jurisdiction of the Election Commission by notifying the delimitation of J&K.

Congress plans massive organisational overhaul

"The discussions at the *shivir* will lay the foundation for a massive organisational overhaul. The 'one family, one ticket' rule has been discussed and will be discussed further. There is near-consensus on this formula and exception will only be made if the second ticket aspirant has worked in the party for five years, doing exemplary work," Ajay Maken, a member of the panel discussing organisational restructuring, told reporters.

The other organisational reforms being considered include establishing mandal committees between booth and block level in the organisation, fixing the maximum of five years' tenure for party positions with a cooling-off period of three years, setting up of a 'public insight department' for creating an in-house survey mechanism and an assessment wing to gauge the performance of office-bearers.

The party is also proposing to promise making minimum support price (MSP) to farmers a legal guarantee and tap jobless youth by discussing on making the right to job a legal right. Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said the party would discuss alliance issues after strengthening its own organisation and unifying its cadres as no partner would come if you did not have any investment.

He said the party would decide on alliances with parties that subscribed to its ideology and were concerned over the "attack" on democracy and the Constitution. "This is a fight between Indian nationalists v/s pseudo nationalists. Those who stand with the principles of the Congress represent the Indian way of life and thought that have sustained this civilisation for 3,000 years," he said.

Modi has kept nation polarised: Sonia Gandhi

The Congress chief urged the 450-odd delegates at the *chintan shivir*, being held after a string of electoral defeats to deliberate with an open mind, but send out a single message of a strong and a united party.

"In one way this [transformation] is the most fundamental issue. Our revival is only possible through collective efforts. Such collective efforts will not be deferred. This shivir is the start of the journey," she said. "The circumstances before our organisation are unprecedented. Extraordinary situations demand extraordinary action. I am fully alert to this. The organisation has to bring changes within itself, not just to stay alive but to move forward. We are in dire need of improvement and changing strategy," she added.

Asserting that the vast majority of Indians want to live in peace and harmony, the Congress chief said the BJP and its cohorts want the people to live in "perpetual frenzy" by provoking and instigating them. She questioned "the silence of the ever so eloquent Prime Minister when the healing touch is most needed". "It is both *chintan* [introspection] about national issues and meaningful *atma chintan* [self-introspection] about our party organisation," Ms. Gandhi observed.

Indian embassy to reopen in Kyiv

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Indian embassy in Ukraine, which was "temporarily" working out of Polish capital Warsaw since March 13, will return to Kyiv from May 17, the Ministry of External Affairs announced in New Delhi on Friday.

The embassy which played a leading role in evacuation of Indian students from Ukraine during February and March, was shifted to Warsaw on March 13. India is one of the several leading nations that have ordered their diplomatic teams to return to Kyiv.

India appointed Harsh Kumar Jain as the new envoy after the embassy was temporarily shifted. Mr. Jain submitted his credentials to Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine Dmytro Senik on May 2. Mr. Jain replaced Partha Satpathy who had played a leading role in the evacuation.

China, Russia, Pak. to attend SCO anti-terror meet in Delhi

First such official discussion in India since LAC stand-off and Ukraine invasion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Counterterrorism teams from Russia, China, Pakistan and Central Asian countries will gather in Delhi on the weekend ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Regional Anti-Terror Structure (SCO-RATS) meeting hosted by India from May 16 to 19.

These are the first such official discussions to be held in India since the stand-off along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) where Chinese PLA troops transgressed in 2020, and since the Russian invasion in Ukraine this year.

Sources said a three-member Pakistani team will attend the meeting in India for the first time since both countries became members. The sources added that a Chinese delegation may not be able to travel to India at present, indicating COVID-19 regulations, and a team from the Chinese Embassy would attend the exercise in its place.

Fresh initiative: Indian envoy to China Pradeep Kumar Rawat addressing a yoga session for SCO diplomats on May 10. • PTI

While both India and Pakistan have no bilateral engagement at present and have not attended other regional meets such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) meet, they both attended the Russia and China-led SCO meet.

Last year, an Indian team also travelled to Pakistan to attend the SCO-RATS exercises in Pabbi. Sources said the Pakistani delegation would cross over at the Wagah-Attari border crossing on Saturday to travel to Delhi for the counterterror meeting next week.

The arrival of the Pakistani team will be marked particularly since it is the first such visit since the swearing-in of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. It also comes after the Pakistani Cabinet decided to re-staff its Trade Minister post at the High Commission in Delhi.

India is expected to host the SCO summit in 2023, which would see leaders of the eight-member grouping (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) travelling to New Delhi.

In October, joint anti-terrorist exercises titled "Manesar-Antiterror-2022" will be held on the NSG training campus in Manesar on the outskirts of Delhi, and will be followed by another joint border operation of the SCO member states called "Friendship Border-2022" in Kazakhstan later this year. Both exercises were decided at a meeting of SCO-RATS in Tashkent on March 25 this year, which was chaired by India.

In April, most poll bonds encashed in Hyderabad

Bonds valued at ₹425 cr. sold in city

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

A Right to Information (RTI) reply this week showed that most of the electoral bonds sold in April were encashed in Hyderabad, at a time when speculation of early election to the Telangana Assembly was rife.

In response to a query by RTI activist Kanhaiya Kumar, the State Bank of India (SBI) on Thursday said electoral bonds worth ₹648 crore were sold in the 20th tranche of the scheme from April 1 to 10.

Out of that, around ₹425 crore worth of bonds were sold from the Hyderabad branch, followed by ₹100 crore in the Chennai branch. The rest of the bonds were sold in the Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi and Panaji branches.

Around ₹420 crore worth of electoral bonds were encashed in Hyderabad, while ₹100 crore were encashed in Chennai. The remaining bonds were encashed in the Bhubaneswar, Kolkata and New Delhi branches.

Amid speculation, Telangana Chief Minister and Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) president K. Chandrasekhar Rao had dismissed talk of early election to the Assembly, whose term runs till January 2024.

Main beneficiary

Speaking of the RTI reply, Mr. Kumar said the TRS was the party with its bank account in Hyderabad and since the national parties – the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress – had accounts in New Delhi, the TRS might have been the main beneficiary of the bonds encashed there.

However, that cannot be known for sure as the electoral bond scheme provides for anonymous donations to parties.

In the previous tranche in January, a total of ₹1,213 crore worth of electoral bonds were sold at a time when the Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand election campaigns were in full swing.

As per another RTI reply to Mr. Kumar by the SBI in February, the electoral bonds sold from January 1 to 10 were almost double than those sold in the April 2021 Assembly elections which took place in the four States and one UT.

Amarnath Yatra pilgrims to be tracked through RFID tags

Home Secretary, officials meet to review preparedness

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The movement of each Amarnath Yatra pilgrim will be tracked with the help of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags, a high-level meeting to review the logistics and security preparedness of the Yatra was informed on Friday.

The meeting chaired by Ajay Bhalla, Union Home Secretary, was attended by officials of the Jammu and Kashmir administration, the chiefs of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and the J&K police.

The J&K administration and the police have been asked to brace for around 8 lakh pilgrims for the Yatra to the holy shrine in South Kashmir that commences on June 30 and concludes on August 11. The RFID tags will be provided by the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB). Registration of all pilgrims are done by the shrine board.

"This will be the first time RFID tags are provided to pilgrims; earlier vehicles carrying them were tracked through the tags. It was then provided by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)," said a senior official. Nearly 35,000 security personnel drawn from various CAPFs are set to be deployed for the yatra. The J&K administration is planning to install bio-toilets along the route to protect the ecosystem in the sensitive zone.

Pilgrimage trail: Devotees registering themselves for Amarnath Yatra in Jammu on April 11. • FILE PHOTO

The yatra is being held after a gap of two years. In 2019, the pilgrimage was abruptly called off on August 2, days before the government moved legislation in Parliament to withdraw the applicability of Article 370 of the Constitution in J&K which granted the former State a special status. The State was divided into two Union Territories – J&K and Ladakh. In 2020 and 2021, it could not be held due to COVID-19. In 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, the number of pilgrims stood at 6.21 lakh, 3.54 lakh, 3.72 lakh, 3.53 lakh, 3.2 lakh, 2.6 and 2.8 lakh and 3.43 lakh, respectively.

The J&K administration has also been asked to arrange alternative accommodation in case inclement weather leads to hold-up of pilgrims at base camps.

In 2017, eight persons were killed when a bus carrying pilgrims from Gujarat was attacked by terrorists near Batingoo in Anantnag.

IN BRIEF

Malik to be treated in private hospital

MUMBAI

A special court in Mumbai on Friday allowed NCP leader Nawab Malik to be treated in a private hospital, but denied the same relief to another party leader Anil Deshmukh. The court directed that Mr. Deshmukh be treated in the J.J. Hospital. Mr. Malik has high fever and diarrhoea and constant stomach pain, whereas Mr. Deshmukh only has a dislocated shoulder.

ED files chargesheet against 2 PFI members

NEW DELHI

The ED has filed a supplementary chargesheet against two leaders of the Popular Front of India, alleging that they were involved in money laundering, apart from raising funds for the organisation to finance its "radical and unlawful activities". It has been filed before a Lucknow Special Court under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The two accused are Abdul Razaq Peediyakkal and Asharaf Khadir.

Panama Papers: ED raids businessman's premises

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has conducted searches on the premises of businessman Sanjay Vijay Shinde – whose name had figured in the Panama Papers on illegal offshore entities – in Bhopal and Goa as part of the probe in a money laundering case. According to the agency, Mr. Shinde had beneficial interests in a British Virgin Islands-based entity in whose Singapore bank account over ₹31 crore was deposited by various offshore entities.

NIA arrests two members of Dawood gang

MUMBAI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested two Mumbai-based alleged members of the outlawed Dawood Ibrahim gang. The two have been identified as Arif Abubakar Shaikh and Shabbir Abubakar Shaikh. The NIA registered the case in February taking *suo motu* cognisance. It alleged that the two were involved in illegal activities of 'D-Company' and terror financing in the western suburbs of Mumbai. They are close associates of Chhota Shakeeland is involved in extortions, narcotics smuggling and terrorist activities in India, NIA said.

Will examine Gyanvapi case for listing, says CJI

The dispute stems from a case filed by five Hindu women in the local court. They had demanded daily access and the right to offer prayers at a Hindu site located outside the western wall of the mosque.

The court had also rejected the mosque committee's plea to replace advocate commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra.

The committee had accused him of being "biased" in favour of the Hindu plaintiffs, but the court had found no merit in their argument. The court had further appointed two more advocate commissioners – special advocate commissioner Vishal Singh and assistant advocate commissioner Ajay Pratap Singh – to assist Mr. Mishra in the videography. It had ordered the commission to complete its inspection and submit a report to the court by May 17.

The court had also given the local administration power to remove any hindrance in the way of the inspection and videography.

27 dead in massive fire in Delhi's Mundka

According to Delhi Fire Services chief Atul Garg, information about the blaze was received around 4.40 p.m. Fire officials said 30 fire tenders were rushed to the site and the injured have been admitted to Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Mangolpuri. Health Minister Satyendar Jain tweeted around 10.50 p.m. that "the fire was doused".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the fire tragedy and announced that ₹2 lakh each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund would be given to the next of kin of those who lost their lives and ₹50,000 each to the injured. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the National Disaster Response Force would reach the spot and provide assistance in the rescue and relief operation. Mr. Shah described the fire incident as "very sad".

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal expressed pain over the loss of lives in the fire and said he was in constant touch with officers.

(With PTI inputs)

Sri Lanka to get fertilizers from India

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Sri Lanka has received assurance from Indian officials regarding the supply of fertilizers that the island nation requires urgently. High Commissioner Milinda Moragoda met with officials concerned on Friday where the issue was discussed.

"High Commissioner Milinda Moragoda met with the Secretary to the Department of Fertilizers of India Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi and thanked him for India's decision to supply 65,000 MT of urea required for the current Yala cultivation season [between May and August] in Sri Lanka," said the High Commission of Sri Lanka in a message.

Soaring food prices in Sri Lanka have added to the economic difficulties and any setback to the next paddy cultivation season will be hard for the island to bear. It is understood that India has given an oral assurance ahead of a final official order that will ensure flow of fertilizers to Sri Lanka. However it is not yet clear, how the cash-strapped Sri Lankan government will pay for the fertilizers shipment.

Modi, Deuba to continue talks on hydropower, connectivity

Indian PM to travel to Lumbini in Nepal next week

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepal counterpart, Sher Bahadur Deuba, will focus on connectivity and electricity projects during their bilateral talks on Monday, when Mr. Modi travels to Lumbini to attend Buddha Purnima celebrations.

Giving details of Mr. Modi's visit to Nepal, which will span only a few hours, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra on Friday said it was significant that the bilateral meeting was taking place just a month after Mr. Deuba visited India in April.

"In their bilateral talks, the two Prime Ministers will pick up from where they left off in Delhi just last month and will build on their productive conversations in Delhi with a view to further expanding our shared understanding and cooperation in multiple areas, including in hydropower, development, partnership and connectivity," he said. The leaders are expected to sign some agreements after the meeting, although officials said they were still being finalised.

This is the first visit to Nepal by Mr. Modi since the Kalapani-Susta dispute broke out between the two countries in 2020, and Nepal amended its Constitution to incorporate a new map showing parts of India in its territory.

This is the first visit to Nepal by Narendra Modi since the Kalapani-Susta dispute broke outin 2020. • FILE PHOTO

Asked whether the issue would be discussed by the two leaders, Mr. Kwatra said boundary issues would be discussed by established bilateral mechanisms, which, he said, were the "best way forward in discussing those issues, discussing in a responsible manner without politicisation of the [border] issues".

However, the Foreign Secretary sidestepped a question about Nepali media reports that suggest that Mr. Modi would be flying to Lumbini by helicopter from Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh rather than flying directly due to the fact that the Gautam Buddha airport in Lumbini, which will be inaugurated by Mr. Deuba on Monday, has been built by a Chinese infrastructure company. According to the *Kathmandu Post*, a high-level Chinese delegation is expected to attend the inauguration of the airport at Bhairahawa, about 10 kilometres from the Lumbini complex, and the Indian delegation sought to avoid the event.

"I don't think it's correct for me or for anybody else to comment on those issues, because those involve many parameters, including security," Mr. Kwatra said.

Divyangjan only in Hindi, says Railways

'Person with Disabilities' to be used

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

The Ministry of Railways will confine the usage of *Divyangjan* to Hindi and replace the term with 'Persons with Disabilities' in English communications. On the suggestion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the word *Viklang* was replaced with *Divyaang* (divine body) to refer to persons with disabilities in 2016.

After the change in nomenclature, people with disabilities were referred to as *Divyangjan*, particularly by the Ministry of Railways in all its communications, signage, and announcements. Even the ticket reservation portal of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) introduced *Divyaang* as the option to avail rail travel concession for differently abled passengers.

Raising it in the Lok Sabha, Member of Parliament D.N.V Senthil Kumar of Dharmapuri constituency in Tamil Nadu called for replacing *Divyangjan* with an English reference since it was not understood by many rail users, particularly in southern India.

"Being an MP even I don't know what it means...when everything is in English [in the IRCTC's reservation portal] why have this terminology, which I am told is a Hindi word derived from Sanskrit. It would make it difficult for a common man who doesn't know Hindi to understand the meaning and avail the benefits extended to differently abled passengers," Dr. Senthil Kumar told *The Hindu*.

Department's advisory

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities , Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, wrote to the Ministry of Railways asking them to use the term 'Person with Disability' in English and *Divyangjan* in Hindi in their portal and communications/signage/announcements while addressing persons with disabilities. The IRCTC was also told to make appropriate changes in their reservation system. The note said India was a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Centre enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, in line with the convention. The term 'persons with disabilities' was used in the English text of the Act while in Hindi it was mentioned as *Divyangjan*.

MRG-BGE

BKI behind grenade attack in Punjab: DGP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Director-General of Police V.K. Bhawra on Friday said the role of Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), gangsters and some elements in Pakistan had come to the fore during the investigation into the rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) attack at the headquarters of the Punjab police Intelligence Wing in Mohali.

The DGP said the key conspirator behind the attack was Lakhbir Singh, alias Landa, who provided the grenade, an AK-47, and logistic support to carry out the attack. "Landa is a native of Tarn Taran district, who fled to Canada in 2017 and is a close aide of Pakistan-based wanted gangster Harvinder Singh, alias Rinda, and had joined hands with Babbar Khalsa International," Mr. Bhawra said at a press conference here.

"We have arrested six persons for their involvement in planning and providing the local logistic support to the attackers," he added.

Two militants linked to Pandit killing shot dead

SIT to probe fatal attack on J&K govt. employee

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Two foreign terrorists of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), who are said to be linked to the killing of Kashmiri Pandit Rahul Bhat, were killed by security forces on Friday, the police said. A special investigation team (SIT) has been formed by the Jammu and Kashmir administration to probe the fatal attack on Bhat.

"A decision has been taken to constitute an SIT to probe all the aspects of the despicable (militant) attack. The Station House Officer of the police station concerned has also been attached," J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha said in a tweet.

He also announced that a government job would be provided to the slain employee's wife in Jammu. "The government will bear the educational expenses of the [victim's] daughter," Mr. Sinha added.

Security personnel staying on guard in Budgam.

The police said that the two LeT terrorists, who had recently infiltrated into the Kashmir Valley, were killed in Bandipora.

They added that the presence of the militants was confirmed technically in the Chadoora area of Budgam on Thursday, the day Bhat was killed.

"Thereafter, their footprint was again confirmed in Brar, Aragam area of Bandipora on Friday. The slain terrorists were identified as Faisal, alias Sikander, alias Mohsin, and Ukasha, both from Pakistan," the police said.

"The police were tracking a local LeT terrorist, Lateef Rather, alias Osama, who was involved in terror incidents in Srinagar and Budgam, for the past two months. A week ago, the movement of Rather was confirmed in the Salinder area where he had gone to receive a fresh group of terrorists of LeT," the police said.

Meanwhile, defending their action on Kashmiri Pandit protesters, the police said they used smoke shells to disperse protesters in Budgam because "there were inputs that (militants) may take advantage of the same and attack the protesters in order to create communal clash or tension".

Policeman killed by militants in Pulwama

SRINAGAR

Militants shot dead an off-duty policeman in south Kashmir's Pulwama on Friday. Constable Riyaz Ahmad Thoker, son of Ali Mohammad Thoker from Pulwama's Gudoora, was fired upon from a close range in his native village. He was shifted to a hospital where he died of his injuries, officials said.

Pandits express fear, demand justice

Many who returned to the Valley in 2010 took out a protest in Sheikhpora

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SHEIKHPORA

Killed by militants in his office chair at Chadoora's guarded tehsil office, Rahul Bhat, 35, was among the first batch of migrant Kashmiri Pandits who returned to the Valley in 2010 after two decades of migration and started living in the Sheikhpora transit colony for Kashmiri Pandits in Budgam.

Twelve years on, around 75 Pandit families from the colony took out street protests on Friday, as they expressed a deep sense of fear and despair about an uncertain future as in the 1990s.

The distraught family of the deceased Bhat, whose body was shifted to Jammu on Thursday, performed the last rites, amid protests and demands for justice. Bhat's father Bitta Bhat, a retired policeman, had migrated in the 1990s from Budgam's Sangrampora, where seven Pandits were killed by gunmen on a single day in 1997.

Bhat's return in 2010 had ignited hope among some of his kin to return to their roots as he took up a government job under the Prime Minister's Return and Rehabilitation Scheme of 2008 and started serving as a clerk in Chadoora's tehsil office. Around 3,841 Pandit employees have returned to the Valley since 2010.

Thursday's incident, however, has shaken the confidence of the community. Meenakshi Bhat, the victim's wife, is shocked by the manner in which her husband was targeted in the safe environs of his office.

"He (Bhat) never complained of any threat in the office. But the fact is that nobody came to protect him when they (terrorists) were looking for him in the office," said Ms. Bhat, the mother of a seven-year-old. According to the family, Bhat had applied for a transfer to the district headquarters, "which was not heeded". Bhat's father also demanded an inquiry "to establish how they reached his room in the tehsil office."

Scores of protesting Pandits took out a march on Friday and braved smoke-shells fired by the security forces, as they demanded that J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha assure them of safety and protection.

Deep pain: Kashmiri Pandits protest against the killing of Rahul Bhat in Sheikhpora. • NISSAR AHMAD

PDP and NC blame Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the National Conference (NC), have blamed the Centre for the rise in targeted killings in the Valley. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said she was prevented by the police from visiting Budgam to express solidarity with Kashmiri Pandits. "I have been put under house arrest, because the fact that Kashmiri Muslims and Pandits empathise with each other's pain doesn't fit into their [the Centre's] vicious communal narrative," Ms. Mufti said.

NC vice-president Omar Abdullah said, "Tourism is not normalcy, it's a barometer of economic activity. Normalcy is the absence of fear, the absence of terror, the inability of militants to strike at will, the presence of democratic rule, and by any yardstick you choose to use, Kashmir is far from normal today."

Report from past exercise by Cong. stays tucked away

Findings of Ashok Chavan panel not tabled before CWC

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The Congress brass has begun introspection at a three-day *Nav Sankalp chintan shivir* in Udaipur, but even as it sits down to draft its strategy, reports from similar exercises in the past remain tucked away.

A five-member committee headed by Maharashtra Minister Ashok Chavan had submitted its report in June last year on the Congress's defeat in Kerala, West Bengal, Assam, and Puducherry. The report, despite demands from members of the Congress Working Committee, was not tabled at the party's highest decision-making forum.

After the 2014 Lok Sabha debacle, the party had similarly constituted a committee under A.K. Antony to probe the reasons for its defeat. The committee ended up being an exercise to exonerate the Gandhi family while blaming the party's pro-minority image for the defeat.

Reports from these committees constituted in a moment of defeat have rarely seen the light of the day and it remains unclear what recommendations were made or what corrective steps followed, if at all, since they were not discussed at wider party platforms.

Mr. Antony, who has gone into semi-retirement, is in Kerala and not participating in any discussions in Udaipur.

Meanwhile, speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Chavan said that he hoped the report submitted by his committee would be discussed at the *chintan shivir*. "The report was well taken. And let's hope, our findings will be discussed," he said.

The Ashok Chavan committee that had Salman Khurshid, Manish Tewari, Vincent H. Pala and Jyothi Mani spoke to over 160 people before compiling a forensic analysis of the defeat in the four States.

According to sources familiar with the findings of the committee, there were systemic flaws in the State units, heavy dependence on the central leadership and ineffective alliances:

NEWS ANALYSIS

Assam

The committee found that the organisation had atrophied in Assam and no efforts were made in last two decades to strengthen it. As many as 18 of the 33 District Congress Committees were found to be practically defunct. There were very few actual booth committees. The Congress's anti-CAA stance failed to resonate in Upper Assam and North Bank because of the contradiction created by the alliance with the AIUDF.

Kerala

The committee noted that the Congress-led United Democratic Front in Kerala had lost the election even before it started because of missteps taken by the leadership. The party ignored the pro-incumbency current created during the pandemic because of the Pinarayi Vijayan government's work and harped on various corruption charges against his government, which failed to sway the voter. The party also lost out on the minority support of Christians and Muslims. The Left could convince the Muslim voters that it is best placed to take on the BJP. The Christian voters abandoned the UDF because of the Congress's proximity to the IUML and the departure of the Kerala Congress (Mani).

West Bengal

The defeat was blamed on a faulty alliance with the Left and Indian Secular Front, a front organisation of a Muslim sect called Furfura Sharif. The Left and Congress were in an alliance in the 2016 election too. However, in the intervening five years, they never worked as a coherent coalition.

Puducherry

The committee found that the party's friction with then Lieutenant-Governor Kiran Bedi brought to a halt all its social schemes, and the Congress government was seen by voters as ineffective.

The party did not handle the exit of former Chief Minister N. Rangaswamy. Parachuting in V. Narayanswamy, who was not even an MLA, caused a lot of heartache. The final blow was the defection of former State unit chief Namassivayam to the BJP.

Gandhians express concern over Gyanvapi Masjid issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over the Gyanvapi mosque issue, a group of Gandhians have appealed to all sections of society to be guided by the unbiased *Lakshman rekha* drawn by the Constitution that keeps politics as well as the civil administration in check.

"The way the issue of Gyanvapi Masjid is being raked up and the way the matter is being handled by the State is unfortunate. Similar situations in the past have led us to the partition of the nation. Those who do not learn from history are often victimised by history," an open letter from 83 signatories said here. The signatories include representatives from Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Gandhi Peace Foundation and Gandhi National Museum, social activists and academics. The letter appealed to people to join the "voices that are for peace and harmony in Indian society".

ODISHA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
S-3/59, MANCHESWAR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BHUBANESWAR-751010
Phone: (0674) 2588260,2586398,2580554, Fax:2586368
Website: www.oredaorissa.com , Email: ceoreda@oredaorissa.com

Notice No: 1444 — **e-TENDER CALL NOTICE** — Date: 11.05.2022 PD-13/2022

Tender is invited through e-tender portal from eligible bidders for Design, Engineering, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Rooftop Solar Power System (RSPS) and Solar Street Lighting System (SLS) along with Comprehensive Maintenance for Five (5) years at various Govt. Buildings.

Details can be seen from the website **www.tenderwizard.com/OREDA** or **www.oredaorissa.com**. Further corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded in these websites only.

Sd/-
Chief Executive
CAD-503: OIPR-04065/11/0005/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, RURAL WORKS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
(E-Mail address - cerw_bbsr@yahoo.com)
Lr.No. 15149 / Dt.12.05.2022

"e" Procurement Notice for bridge works in Odisha (Online-03(Bridge)/2022-23 dt.12.05.2022)

1. Name of the work : **"Construction of bridge work"**
2. Total No. of Works : **01** (One) no
3. Estimated cost : **Rs.4892.40 lakh**
4. Class of Contractor : **Super Class**
5. Period of Completion : **24** (Twenty Four) Calendar months
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of bridge works	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To
Chief Engineer, Buildings & Bridges, Rural Works,Odisha, Bhubaneswar	Online-03 (Bridge)/ 2022-23	01 (One) no.	26.05.2022 at 11.00 A.M	16.06.2022 upto 5.00 P.M

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in** .

O-213: Sd/- **Chief Engineer (Buildings & Bridges), Rural Works,Odisha, Bhubaneswar**
OIPR-25123/11/0010/2223

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मुहरबंद निविदाएं निम्नलिखित वस्तु(ओं)/सेवाओं की प्राप्ति के लिए पात्र और योग्य निविदाकर्ताओं से आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं : Sealed tenders are invited from eligible and qualified tenderers for the following Items :
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना /Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)

क्र.सं./ Sl. No.	माल/सेवाएँ का संक्षिप्त विवरण Brief Description of Goods / Services.	निविदा सं. Tender no.	मात्रा Quantity	निविदाओं की प्राप्ति के लिए तारीख और बंद करने का समय/ Closing date and time for receipt of tenders
1.	Procurement of Sensitized Creamwove Chq. Paper for IPO 49 CM	6000017477	30,000 Kgs (+/-5%)	27-05-2022 At 10:45 AM (IST)
2.	Procurement of Snow White Maplitho Paper in reel form having width of 43 cms and 75 GSM	6000017489	24,000 Kgs (+/-5%)	
3.	Procurement of Reel Core 8mm wall thickness	6000017482	39,000 meters (+/-5%)	14-06-2022 At 10:45 AM (IST)

आगे विवरण हेतु, कृपया हमारा वेबसाईट: http://spphyderabad.spmcil.com. देखें और किसी संशोधन/शुद्धि–पत्र वेबसाईट पर ही प्रकाशित किया जाएगा/For further details, please visit our website at http://spphyderabad.spmcil.com & amendment / corrigendum if any, will be published on website only.
इसम/Sd/- M (TO) & CPSO/(For Chief General Manager)

LOOK OUT NOTICE

Razza

Ajmal

Shihab

Saifudheen Sali

1. Rassa @ P.S Haris, Age-42, S/o Sainudheen, Panackal House, Mannancherry P/W, Alappuzha District.
2. Ajmal, S/o Ayoob, Kaniyamparambu, Legnath ward, Alappuzha Municipality, Alappuzha District.
3. Unda Shihab @ Shihab, Age-38, S/o Muhammed Kunju, Chiyamveli, Mannancherry, Alappuzha District.
4. Saifudheen Sali, Age-37, S/o Sali, SaifManzil, Beach ward, Alappuzha who are the accused in 897/2021 U/s 143, 147, 148, 427, 447, 449, 120(B), 323, 324, 326, 341, 354, 506 (ii), 302 r/w 149, 109, 201, 212, 118, 34 IPC & 27 of Arms act of Alappuzha South Police Station, they are absconding after the commission of the crime. If any clue or information is obtained about them that may be intimated immediately to Alappuzha South Police Station **ISHO, Deputy Superintendent of Police Alappuzha, District Police Chief Alappuzha.**

Inspector of Police, Alappuzha South PS - 9497987059
DySP, Alappuzha - 9497990041
District Police Chief, Alappuzha - 9497996982
(RO/01067/F2/2022/I&PRD)

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-06/2063/2022-23 Date: 12.05.2022

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the work of **Implementation of 5.00MLD Water Supply Scheme from Hidkal Reservoir to the Kangala Industrial Area, Hukkeri Taluka, Belagavi District (2nd Call).**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **01.06.2022 upto 04:00 pm**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/506/Zenkar/2022-23

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
WARANGAL- 506 004 (TS)
(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER Date: 27-04-2022

The Director, NIT Warangal invites e-bids from eligible Indian agencies to provide Housekeepingservices to Halls of residence for 1.8 K (Ultra Mega Hostel), 1.0 K (Mega Hostel), Dasa (International Students Hostel), Ladies Hostel, 12th Block and 14th Block at NIT Warangal.

For details to visit **www.nitw.ac.in/tenders** and for bidding process visit **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** - Tenders by Organisation – National Project Implementation Unit - World Bank Tenders – NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY WARANGAL. Last Date for e-bidding at CPPP is 01-06-2022 at 11:00 am.

DIRECTOR

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE (NaCSA)
(MPEDA, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)
D.No.:70-1A-6/1, Vasireddy Vaari Street, Near Muncipal High School, Ramanayya Peta, KAKINADA-533005. A.P., Ph.:0884-2350655, ISO 9001:2015

REQUIRES FOR MAHARASHTRA, ODISHA, GUJARAT, KERALA, KARNATAKA AND ANDHRA PRADESH STATES

Name of the Post : **Field Managers : 10 No.s**
Qualification : B.F.Sc. or B.Sc in Biological Science preferably in Zoology / Aquaculture Fisheries with 2 years experience.
Andhra Pradesh - **5**, Odisha - **2**, Gujarat - **1**, Maharashtra - **1**, Kerala & Karnataka - **1**.

Name of the Post : **Office Assistant : 01 No**
Qualification : Bachelor Degree from any recognised University
Experience : 1 year Office Administration with Computer knowledge in English.
Andhra Pradesh - **1**

Last date for receiving applications through online is 21st May' 2022
» Appointment is purely on contract basis.
» Eligible candidates may apply online
For further details, please visit our website : www.nacsampeda.org.in

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813;
website: www.pspcl.in; e-tendering portal: https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
Contact No.: 96461-19383, 96461-11036

Tender Enquiry No. QQ-238/PO-C Date 12.05.2022

Chief Purchase Office/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd Floor Multistorey Building, The Mall Road, Patiala, invites E-tender of **6100 Km** ACSR Rabbit, Nominal Aluminium area 50 mm² bearing ISI/ PQM Mark conforming to IS:398 Part-II 1996 (with Latest amendments, if any) and PSPCL specification QQ-238.

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 16.05.2022 11:00 AM onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C 177/22 PSPCL-76155/12/855/2021/14220

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
AUCTION PROGRAMME
NOTICE NO:06/2022

e-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc Scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material.

Sl. No.	e-auction conducted by	Date of auction for the Month of June 2022		Materials for auction
1	CMM/GSD/PER	03.06.22	22.06.22	The details of item to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue in www.ireps.gov.in website.
2	Dy.CMM/CSSD/GOC	06.06.22	23.06.22	
3	Dy.CMM/SSD/PTJ	07.06.22	27.06.22	
4	Sr.DMM/MAS	01.06.22	29.06.22	
5	Sr.DMM/SA	02.06.22	24.06.22	
6	Sr.DMM/TVC	08.06.22	27.06.22	
7	Sr.DMM/PGT	09.06.22	28.06.22	
8	Sr.DMM/TPJ	10.06.22	30.06.22	
9	Sr.DMM/TPJ (for MDU divn)	10.06.22	30.06.22	

For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our web-site http://www.ireps.gov.in->E-Auction->Sale->Live Auctions.
PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

Monsoon to arrive early over Kerala

IMD says it will make its onset on May 27, four days ahead of the normal date of June 1

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The monsoon is slated to make its earliest arrival in 13 years over Kerala. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday that the monsoon will make its onset over the State on May 27, four days ahead of its normal date of June 1.

The IMD records show that the monsoon arrived on May 23 in 2009, May 26 in 2006 and May 28 in 2007. The last time the monsoon arrived in Kerala in May was 2018.

The IMD uses a specialised model that forecasts the arrival dates within a four-day window. It uses six predictors – minimum temperatures over northwest India, pre-monsoon rainfall peak over south Peninsula, outgoing long-wave radiation (OLR) over the South China Sea, lower tropospheric zonal wind over the southeast Indian Ocean, upper tropospheric zonal wind over the east equatorial Indian Ocean, and outgoing long-wave radiation over the southwest Pacific region.

Date with rain: The IMD uses a model that forecasts the arrival dates within a four-day window. • FILE PHOTO

Except for 2015, the monsoon has arrived within the four-day window of the date forecast by the IMD from 2005 to 2021, the IMD said in a press statement.

The monsoon's arrival over India is marked by rain over south Andaman Sea, which then advances northwestwards across the Bay of Bengal.

Usually, the southwest monsoon advances over the Andaman Sea around May 22.

D.S. Pai, a senior forecaster with the IMD, said that this year, the monsoon had nearly reached Andaman.

In association with enhanced cross-equatorial winds, conditions are becoming favourable for the southwest monsoon advancing into the South Andaman sea, Nicobar Islands and some parts of southeast Bay of Bengal around May 15, the IMD statement noted.

However, there is little correlation between the monsoon's arrival and the quantum of rainfall. In 2009, for instance, the monsoon's early arrival failed to inure India against its biggest drought in 40 years.

"Past data suggests that there is no association of the date of monsoon advance over the Andaman Sea either with the date of monsoon onset over Kerala or with the seasonal monsoon rainfall over the country," according to the IMD.

Absence of El Nino

The IMD has forecast a normal monsoon for this year, with the country expected to get 99% of the long period average (LPA). The normal monsoon is premised on the absence of an El Nino, a phenomenon associated with a warming of the Central Pacific and drying up of rain over northwest India during the monsoon months of June-September.

CCMB develops Indian mRNA vaccine platform

Centre claims robust immune response in mice

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) here has established the "proof of principle" of the first indigenous mRNA vaccine technology coming from a scientific institution in India, Vinay K. Nandicoori, Director of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research institution, said on Friday.

"We are very excited about this achievement of replicating the mRNA vaccine technology end-to-end. We are proud to have developed the potential mRNA vaccine candidate against SARS-CoV-2 within 10 months of having initiated the concept. It is based on the Moderna model, but has been built with the information available in the open and our own technology and materials," he said a press conference at the CCMB, along with N. Madhusudhana Rao, Director, Atul Incubation Centre (AIC-CCMB).

Dr. Nandicoori said "robust immune response" had been observed against the COVID-19 spike protein in mice upon administration of two doses of the mRNA vaccine. "The anti-spike antibodies generated were found to be more than 90% efficient in preventing the human ACE2 receptor binding to the coronavirus," Rajesh Iyer, scientist, said.

The mRNA vaccine platform can help deal with other infectious diseases. • REUTERS

The mRNA vaccine candidate is now undergoing preclinical hamster challenge studies to evaluate the efficacy to protect against live virus infection.

While vaccines work by training the immune system to identify disease-causing micro-organisms and eliminate them quickly when they encounter them, in the mRNA technology, the host cell's immune system is trained to evade the real infection. This is done by introducing mRNA of the micro-organism of concern into the host.

The home-grown mRNA vaccine platform holds promise to deal with other infectious diseases such as TB, dengue, malaria, chikungunya, rare genetic diseases and others. "The beauty of this technology is in its rapid turnaround times, which means vaccines can be developed for other diseases or a pan-COVID vaccine covering different variants," the CCMB Director said.

The scientists said the technology was ready to be transferred to any interested firm to take it to the next level of human trials and bring out the vaccine into the market after approval of the regulatory authorities.

"We have been having discussions with a few private firms to scale up to the next level of trials and commercial production," a scientist added.

IN BRIEF

Rhino alive in Assam, but horn is missing

GUWAHATI

A rhino found moving around the Orang National Park with its horn sawed off posed a new challenge for the wildlife officials in Assam. Two days ago, forest guards found the sub-adult rhino bleeding from the spot where the horn was removed. The officials said the rhino, a Schedule 1 animal under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972, was made unconscious before the miscreants removed the horn.

CBI registers case against Lieutenant-Colonel

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has booked Lieutenant-Colonel Abhishek Chandra along with five others for allegedly receiving bribes to extend favours to suppliers of rations and other items to the Andaman and Nicobar Command headquarters' canteen and store. It is alleged that in 2018, the accused officer had demanded and accepted bribes from different private suppliers.

Protest by Central government officials

NEW DELHI

Central government officials wore black clothes, took out marches and refused to work extra hours on Friday amid the Union government's failure to grant them timely promotions. The middle to senior rank government officials, who comprise the Central Secretariat Service (CSS), have not been promoted for the past six years, forcing many to retire without enhanced financial benefits.

ISRO tests booster for Gaganyaan

GSLV Mk-III rocket, to be used for the mission, will have two HS200 boosters

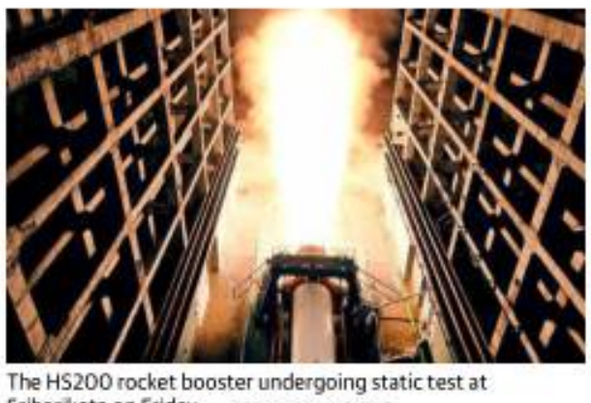
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully carried out the static test of the HS200 solid rocket booster, taking the space agency one more step closer to the keenly awaited Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission.

The test was held at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, on Friday morning.

Designed and developed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram for over two years, the HS200 booster is the 'human-rated' version of the S200 rocket boosters used on the geosynchronous satellite launch vehicle Mk-III (GSLV Mk-III), also called the LVM3.

The GSLV Mk-III rocket, which will be used for the Gaganyaan mission, will have two HS200 boosters that will supply the thrust for lift-off.



The HS200 rocket booster undergoing static test at Sriharikota on Friday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The HS200 is a 20-metre-long booster with a diameter of 3.2 metres and is the world's second largest operational booster using solid propellants.

During Friday's test, about 700 parameters were monitored and the performance of all the systems were normal, ISRO said.

Loaded with 203 tonnes of solid propellant, the HS200 booster was tested for a total duration of 135 seconds.

ISRO Chairman S. Somanath and VSSC Director S. Unnikrishnan Nair were present during the test.

"The successful completion of this test marks a major milestone for the prestigious human space flight mission of ISRO, the Gaganyaan, as the first stage of the launch vehicle is tested for its performance for the full duration," ISRO said in a statement on Friday.

Since Gaganyaan is a manned mission, the GSLV Mk-III will have improvements to increase reliability and safety to meet the requirements of 'human rating.'

The control system used in the HS200 booster employs one of the world's most powerful electro-mechanical actuators with multiple redundancy and safety features, according to the VSSC.

Of the three propulsion stages of the GSLV Mk-III, the second stage uses liquid propellant while the third is a cryogenic stage.

SC dismisses plea to postpone NEET postgraduate exam

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a petition to postpone NEET PG 2022 exam, saying tinkering with the time schedule would lead to "chaos and uncertainty" and cause a "cascading effect".

A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud accepted the Union government's submission that "any delay in conduct of the exams would mean fewer doctors in hospitals" at a time when the nation was just coming out of the pandemic.

"What must be borne in mind is that there are students who have registered for the exam. As the country gets back on the rails after the disruptions caused due to the pandemic, the time schedule must be adhered to," the court noted. The exam is scheduled for May 21.

"We held extensive consultations on the conduct and the timing of the exam... Any delay would infract upon patient care, since this will lead to a fewer number of resident doctors in the hospitals, as there are supposed to be three batches of postgraduate doctors available in hospitals as opposed to only two batches available now," Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, for the Health Ministry, submitted to the bench.

The court acknowledged that the issue pertained to the policy domain and it need not intervene unless there was apparent "manifest" arbitrariness.

'Good News' at a time of turmoil in the Valley

A film collaboration between a Kashmiri Muslim and a Pandit aims to heal wounds

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Bitterness between Kashmiri Muslims and Pandits may have aggravated in the recent past. However, a Kashmiri Muslim filmmaker, Danish Renzu, and a Kashmiri Pandit writer-producer, Sunayana Kachroo, have collaborated on a 10-minute movie titled *The Good News* to heal the wounds of the embittered communities by looking at their common past and sufferings.

The Good News, starring Salonie Patel and Gauri Batra as Hindu-Muslim friends, is scheduled to be premiered during the Tongues on Fire UK Asian Film Festival in London on Saturday.

Speaking to *The Hindu* ahead of the release, Renzu, who had earned applause for earlier movies *The Illegal* and *Half Widow*, described *The Good News* as a project that was sparked by the killings of members of minorities by gunmen in 2021 in Kashmir.

"I was in Srinagar in 2021 when there were attacks on minority members in September-October. It was inhumane. Whoever is responsible for the heinous acts are trying to create divisions and a rift in the Valley. That is what led to this short film. It is based on true events. It's aimed at bringing the people together," said Mr. Renzu, who belonged to a Kashmiri generation that never got to see Kashmiri Pandits living in the neighbourhood.

The movie is set to be premiered at the UK Asian Film Festival on Saturday.

Mr. Renzu believes that the time has come to see the two communities living together again.

"I have heard great things about how Muslims and Pandits would live together. And how Pandits left the Valley [in the 1990s] because of the violence against them. Today's generation has an opportunity to not only touch upon these topics but also to respond and to bring people together," he said.

Element of hope

Mr. Renzu said the film is not just talking about what is happening in the Valley but it also highlights the element of hope. "It's my imperative to bring as a filmmaker different points of views and people's plight," he added.

For Kachroo, this film is a trip into how two friends shared their smallest joys.

It remains to be seen if *The Good News* will heal wounds and revive ties between communities.

3.2 cr. used facilities under Ayushman scheme: Centre

18 crore health cards have been issued

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

More than 18 crore health cards have been issued under the Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) scheme so far and over 3.2 crore people have availed the hospital facilities, the Health Ministry said on Friday.

Digital health solutions

Earlier this week, the National Health Authority (NHA), under its flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), announced the successful integration of additional 13 digital health solutions in the ABDM Sandbox environment in the last three months.

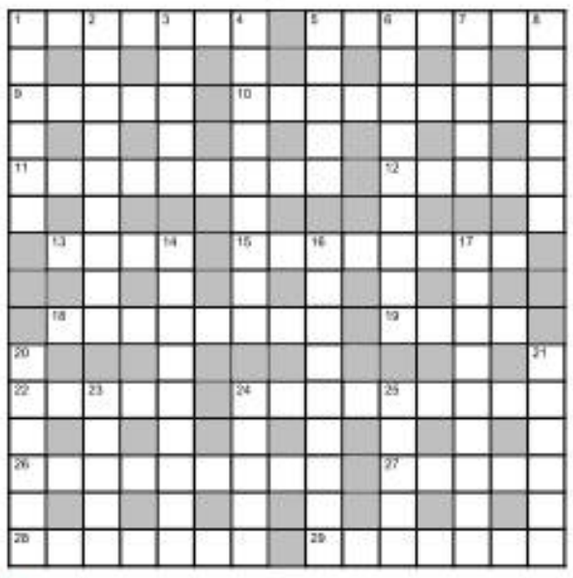
"This takes the tally of ABDM integrated service applications to 40 since the national launch was announced on September 27, 2021. The ABDM partners ecosystem now consists of 16 government applications and 24 private sector applications," said the Ministry.

TH CROSSWORD + 13556

(set by Arden)

Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1 Devil-may-care fighting unit with perhaps, a sole follower (7)
5 Lug into fight and offer support (4,3)
9 Money, one that goes into the loo (5)
10 With husband in prison, strives to get endowments (9)
11 Tailor asking her about reduction in size (9)
12 Heathen quiet once more, losing interest (5)
13 Insect behaving naturally when trapped (4)
15 West end's gone, badly disconnected (8)
18 Booze, eating meat led to his heart complaint (4,4)
19 Told to see the place (4)
22 She springs into existence right in the middle of Australia (5)
24 Thief going around with mask, rough and ready (9)
26 Stops accepting money transfer? Definitely not! (2,2,5)
27 He pays money essentially to go through the portal (5)
28 Born with a voice, raised to get a title (7)
29 Lazy question about choice before Kings (4-3)

DOWN

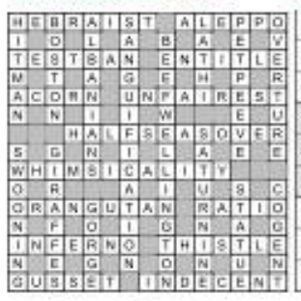
1 Give up a carriage (6)
2 Starts growing roses again in the country – such sweet smell! (9)
3 Playwright bar hopping in Brisbane (5)
4 Cut one extra, make a headgear (9)
5 Support for a couple (5)
6 Does it pan out like the Poles? (9)
7 Due to win in up coming game (5)
8 When a situation arises, has some herbal tea (6)
14 Term used with 3 to describe 16 perhaps (9)
16 In Kurukshetra, both sides saying they were brave (9)
17 Second time divas into river during sunrise, they keep you healthy (9)
20 Some blood groups contribute to growth in Africa (6)
21 Anecdote about the bottom floor (6)
23 Those who do bad things exposed, they're close to centre (5)
24 Last man in playing team mattered (5)
25 Somethings ordered especially for the upcoming feast (5)

SUDOKU

			7					2
6								5
3		9			6		1	
4		5		7			8	
			8		2			
	8			4		7		6
	2		3			5		9
5								1
1					9			

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13555



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	8	2	4	3	6	7	9	5
5	9	4	1	7	8	3	6	2
6	3	7	5	2	9	1	8	4
8	4	5	7	1	2	9	3	6
2	7	9	3	6	4	8	5	1
3	1	6	8	9	5	2	4	7
9	2	8	6	5	7	4	1	3
7	6	3	9	4	1	5	2	8
4	5	1	2	8	3	6	7	9

FAITH

First Kural of Tiruvalluvar

There is no doubt that by being familiar with the ideas and concepts embedded in the pithy kurals of the Tirukkural, one is sure to become a better individual. Any kural is meant to contain a wealth of thought in a few words. Hence, it is important to imbibe the essence by a careful study of the choice and arrangement of words, phrases, etc, that provide clues to what the author intends to convey, pointed out Nallur Sa Saravanan in a discourse.

A great thinker of extraordinary merit, Tiruvalluvar has factored in many ideas and brilliantly compressed them in this work of universal significance. He is at his very best right from the first kural when he brings the idea of God to people. He has to make us aware of God who is One but not seen. He leads us to grasp the unknown by referring to the known. He tells the truth in such a way that it is acceptable to posterity at any point of time. This is the way Upanishad seers have put forth their observations.

The general structure of the kural is made up of two statements linking the ideas contained in them. It begins with the statement that the letter A or agaram is the beginning of all letters. All of us know this as true. The alphabets and letters in any language represent sounds that are articulated by all beings in this universe with the help of breath that is the sustenance of life.

From here, as a parallel thought, he states that Adi Bhagavan is the beginning of this world. That is, God is the source and origin of this entire creation. We all perceive and experience this complex and marvelous world and also try to understand our individual existence and the way we function in this world. The poet makes us seek the starting point of all this, God.

Ranil vows to 'deliver solutions' to crisis

The new Prime Minister assumes office, moots a 'foreign aid consortium' with Colombo-based envoys

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's newly appointed Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who has vowed to "deliver solutions" to the island's deepening economic crisis, kicked off duties on Friday, discussing formation of a "foreign aid consortium" with Colombo-based envoys, his office said.

His outreach came a day after he was sworn in as Premier by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, in place of Mahinda Rajapaksa, who resigned earlier this week in the wake of attacks carried out by his supporters on anti-government protesters. For months now, scores of citizens groups, youth, professionals and artistes have been agitating with the demand that President Rajapaksa step down over the crippling economic crisis. The attacks triggered violent retaliations, prompting authorities to impose a police curfew, as homebound citizens further struggle to access essentials including food, fuel, medicines and cooking gas amid acute shortages.

Renewing ties: Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay with Ranil Wickremesinghe during a meeting on May 13. • PTI

Indian envoy Gopal Baglay was among the first to meet Mr. Wickremesinghe shortly after he assumed charge on Friday morning. "High Commissioner called on Hon'ble PM [Ranil Wickremesinghe] @RW_UNP. Conveyed greetings and good wishes. Discussed continued cooperation for economic recovery and stability in #SriLanka through democratic processes towards the well being of all the people of Sri Lanka," the Indian mission said in a tweet. India has extended assistance totalling $3.5 billion this year to help Sri Lanka cope with its severe dollar crunch. Mr. Wickremesinghe has taken up a tough job at a time when the country's reserves are dangerously low. Former Finance Minister Ali Sabry – the Cabinet ceased to exist after Mr. Mahinda's resignation – recently told Parliament that Sri Lanka's foreign reserves stood at $50 million, barely enough to service a week's imports. Colombo has pinned its hopes on IMF assistance but is looking for bridge financing get past the next few months.

Sixth term

The new PM, who is in office for the sixth time, also met the Ambassadors of China, the U.S., Japan, and the British High Commissioner. "The Chinese Ambassador, when meeting Prime Minister Wickremesinghe, expressed his country's willingness to continue to support Sri Lanka while also pledging to review existing assistance provided to the country," his office said in a statement.

Politically, Mr. Wickremesinghe has few backers other than the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP or People's Front) at the moment. Opposition parties have said they will not be part of a government led by him and Mr. Gotabaya, while government allies seem hesitant to take up ministerial positions.

The new Prime Minister has no parliamentary colleagues from the United National Party he leads as he is its sole legislator. It remains to be seen if Mr. Wickremsinghe can prove he has the confidence of the House when the Parliament convenes on May 17. The country also awaits a new Cabinet and government to run its affairs at a critical time.

Erdogan opposes Finland, Sweden joining NATO bloc

Turkey, a member state, has a veto on the group's decisions

ASSOCIATED PRESS
HELSINKI

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday that his country is "not favourable" toward Finland and Sweden joining NATO, indicating that Turkey could use its status as a member of the Western military alliance to veto moves to admit the two countries.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan

"We are following developments concerning Sweden and Finland, but we are not of a favorable opinion," Mr. Erdogan told reporters.

The Turkish leader explained his opposition by citing Sweden and other Scandinavian countries' alleged support for Kurdish militants and others whom Turkey considers to be terrorists.

He said he also did not want to repeat Turkey's past "mistake" from when it agreed to readmit Greece into NATO's military wing in 1980. He claimed the action had allowed Greece "to take an attitude against Turkey by taking NATO behind it."

Mr. Erdogan did not say outright that he would block any accession attempt the two Nordic nations might make, but NATO takes all its decisions by consensus, meaning that each of the 30 member countries has a potential veto over who can join.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has said that Finland and Sweden, should they formally apply to join NATO, would be welcomed with open arms.

Meanwhile. a report by the Swedish government on the changed security environment facing the Nordic country after Russia's invasion of Ukraine says Moscow would react negatively to Sweden joining NATO and launch several counter-measures.

The Swedish government's security policy analysis, which will be used as a basis for Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson's Cabinet to decide whether to seek membership in the Western military alliance, was presented to Swedish lawmakers on Friday.

Sweden's governing Social Democratic Party, led by Ms. Andersson, is expected to reveal its decision on Sunday.

The report pointed to NATO membership carrying a number of advantages for Sweden. At the same time, it lists numerous tactics Russia is likely to take in retaliation.

These would include cyber and different kind of hybrid attacks, violations of Swedish airspace or territorial sea. Other aggressive behaviour including strategic signalling with nuclear weapons are also conceivable from Moscow, the report said.

Meanwhile, Russia is all set to suspend electricity to Finland this weekend, a supplier said. It blamed the move on not having received payment for electricity sold in May and said as a consequence it was no longer able to pay for more electricity from Russia.

Israeli police beat mourners at Shireen Abu Akleh's funeral

The journalist was killed during an Israeli raid in Jenin

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM

Israeli police on Friday moved in on a crowd of mourners at the funeral of *Al Jazeera* journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, beating demonstrators with batons and causing pallbearers to briefly drop the casket.

The crackdown came during a rare show of Palestinian nationalism in east Jerusalem.

Thousands of mourners, some hoisting Palestinian flags and chanting "Palestine, Palestine," attended the funeral for Abu Akleh, who witnesses say was shot and killed by Israeli forces earlier this week while covering a military raid in the occupied West Bank.

"We die for Palestine to live," the crowd chanted. "Our beloved home." Later, they sang the Palestinian national anthem.

Ahead of the service, dozens of mourners tried to march with the casket on foot out of a hospital to a Catholic church in the nearby Old City.

The police said the crowd at the hospital was chanting "nationalist incitement," ignored calls to stop and threw stones at police. "The policemen were forced to act," the police said.

After the heated scene outside the hospital, the police allowed the family to drive the casket to a Catholic church in the Old City, which was packed with mourners, before sealing off the hospital and firing tear gas at scores of protesters.

Several hours later, she was buried in a cemetery outside the Old City.

Putin's 'girlfriend' among aides sanctioned by U.K.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Britain on Friday sanctioned 12 members of Russian President Vladimir Putin's "inner circle" accused of hiding corrupt riches in return for influential state positions.

They included his ex-wife Lyudmila Ocheretnaya and Alina Kabaeva, a former Olympic gymnast who the U.K. government said was "alleged to have a close personal relationship with Mr. Putin".

"We are exposing and targeting the shady network propping up Mr. Putin's luxury lifestyle and tightening the vice on his inner circle," Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said in a statement.

Alina Kabaeva

Britain said it had now sanctioned more than 1,000 individuals and 100 Russian entities, including oligarchs worth more than $140 billion since Mr. Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine.

Putin, Scholz hold talks over phone

Moscow fighting 'Nazi ideology' in Kyiv: Russian President

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin on Friday insisted that Russia was fighting "Nazi ideology" in Ukraine in a phone call with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz .

The Russian President sent military troops to the pro-Western country on February 24, saying Ukraine needed to be "demilitarised" and "de-Nazified."

"Attention has been drawn to the continued violations of international humanitarian law by militants advocating Nazi ideology and using terrorist methods," the Kremlin said in a readout after the call.

Mr. Putin reiterated that Moscow's military operation was aimed at protecting the Russian-speaking popula-tion of eastern Ukraine.

Mr. Putin also accused Kyiv of "blocking" peace talks.

Mr. Scholz has come under fire for arms deliveries to Ukraine deemed insufficient and Germany's reliance on Russian energy imports.

Germany's economy is now racing to wean itself off Russian energy and has already almost completely phased out Russian coal.

UAE's ailing President Sheikh Khalifa dies at 73

He was battling illness for many years

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ABU DHABI

The United Arab Emirates' President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan died aged 73 on Friday, state media said, after battling illness for several years.

The President of the oil-rich Gulf state, who was rarely seen in public, is likely to be replaced by his half-brother, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed, who was already seen as the UAE's de facto ruler.

The Ministry announced 40 days of mourning, with flags at half-mast from Friday and work suspended in the public and private sectors for the first three days.

Sheikh Khalifa took over as the UAE's second President in November 2004.

He has rarely been seen in public since 2014, when he had surgery following a stroke, although he has continued to issue rulings. The cause of death was not immediately released.

Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahayan

As a mark of respect to the departed dignitary, the Government of India has announced a day's mourning throughout the country, a Home Ministry statement said. The National Flag will be flown at half-mast and there will be no official entertainment on the day.

Nuclear talks with Iran have been reopened: EU

Final agreement within sight: Borrell

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WANGELS

Stalled negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme have been unblocked after fresh talks in Tehran, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Friday, adding that he believed a final deal was within reach.

Mr. Borrell said a mission by EU envoy Enrique Mora this week to help revive the 2015 nuclear pact between Iran and world powers had gone "better than expected".

"The negotiations had stalled and now they have been reopened," Mr. Borrell told reporters on the sidelines of a G7 meeting in Germany.

"There is a perspective of reaching a final agreement."

Mr. Mora held two days of meetings with Iran's chief negotiator Ali Bagheri in Tehran this week.

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said the visit focused on "initiatives" to resolve remaining issues.

"Mr. Mora's visit to Tehran and his negotiations with my colleague Mr. Bagheri were another opportunity to focus on initiatives to resolve the remaining issues," he wrote on Twitter.

"A good and credible agreement is available if the United States makes a political decision and adheres to its commitments," Mr. Amir-Abdollahian said. "Contacts will continue," he added.

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Notice

All the tenders* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of **BCCL www.bcclweb.in,** Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in.** *This is applicable to all Open (Domestic / Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
(WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA)
Note Mudran Nagar, Mysuru-570 003, Karnataka, India
Tel : +91 821 2582905/15/25, Fax : +91 821 2582099

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING / OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY

BRBNMPL invites bids from eligible bidders for following tenders:
1. **Tender No.013/MYS/VARNIKA-05/2022-23** - Supply of Pigment Red 146 for Varnika at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.
2. **Tender No.014/MYS/VARNIKA-06/2022-23** - Supply of Pigment Yellow 13 for Varnika at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.
3. **Tender No.015/MYS/VARNIKA-07/2022-23** - Supply of Pigment Black 7 for Varnika at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.

For downloading tender documents, last date of submission of above tenders and other details, kindly visit our website **www.brbnmpl.co.in.** Further corrigendum/ amendment to above tenders, if issued in future, will be notified on the Company website only.

General Manager

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - Dasarahalli Division, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: EE/RI-Dhalli/TEND/02/2022-23 Date: 13-05-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Road Infrastructure - Dasarahalli Division), BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites item rate tenders from eligible Contractors / Firms registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the work detailed below.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Improvements to Roads & Drains to AGB Layout Main Road and Other Roads, Road Infrastructure Division, Dasarahalli Zone.	418.32	6,28,000/-

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 16-05-2022.** 2) Last Date for Tender Queries (only through online): **20-05-2022 upto 3.00 PM.** 3) Pre Bid Meeting on **20-05-2022 at 4.00 PM at Office of the Executive Engineer - Road Infrastructure - Dasarahalli Division, Annex Building-03, 2nd Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.** 4) Tender must be submitted online through e-Procurement Portal **on or before 27-05-2022 upto 4.00 PM.** 5) Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **30-05-2022 at 4.30 PM.** 6) Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **after approval of Technical Bid.** Further details can be had from the above office

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RI-Dasarahalli Division, BBMP.

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MARKET WATCH

	13-05-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	52,794	-0.26
US Dollar	77.55	-0.06
Gold	50,127	-1.31
Brent oil	110.98	3.20

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	705.90	-7.40
Apollo Hosp	3547.80	-33.05
Asian Paints	3064.00	24.05
Axis Bank	635.95	-13.70
Bajaj Auto	3642.10	57.10
Bajaj Finserv	12608.30	-242.40
Bajaj Finance	5515.75	-77.65
Bharti Airtel	689.90	-15.50
BPCL	336.95	-3.00
Britannia Ind	3278.50	61.65
Cipla	934.60	11.85
Coal India	168.70	1.65
Divis Lab	4281.10	47.30
Dr Reddys Lab	3924.30	44.10
Eicher Motors	2432.65	48.00
Grasim Ind	1475.10	-10.75
HCL Tech	1052.15	-7.25
HDFC	2132.95	-17.50
HDFC Bank	1291.35	-11.70
HDFC Life	550.75	3.50
Hero MotoCorp	2449.15	47.95
Hindalco	388.00	-17.85
Hind Unilever	2194.10	55.30
ICICI Bank	677.35	-18.45
Indusind Bank	872.35	2.45
Infosys	1504.40	-4.40
ITC	258.60	5.70
JSW Steel	600.45	-24.35
Kotak Bank	1779.55	18.65
L&T	1534.50	8.35
M&M	889.50	24.25
Maruti Suzuki	7101.95	-151.70
Nestle India Ltd.	16402.95	182.95
NTPC	144.15	-4.40
ONGC	153.55	-2.95
PowerGrid Corp	236.30	0.40
Reliance Ind	2426.60	27.20
SBI Life	1044.95	-15.65
State Bank	444.65	-18.00
Shree Cement	22565.35	-62.05
Sun Pharma	882.50	12.50
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	737.60	-0.45
Tata Motors	404.30	32.00
Tata Steel	1097.00	-20.70
TCS	3414.90	6.25
Tech Mahindra	1202.85	-9.95
Titan	2091.70	43.15
UltraTech Cement	6196.55	11.10
UPL	781.55	16.60
Wipro	468.65	-5.15

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 13

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	77.25	77.57
Euro	80.21	80.54
British Pound	94.16	94.56
Japanese Yen (100)	59.90	60.15
Chinese Yuan	11.38	11.43
Swiss Franc	77.23	77.56
Singapore Dollar	55.33	55.57
Canadian Dollar	59.39	59.64
Malaysian Ringitt	17.56	17.67
Australian Dollar	53.21	53.43

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF

Swiggy to buy restaurant tech platform Dineout

BENGALURU

Swiggy, an on-demand convenience platform, has signed a pact with Times Internet to acquire Dineout, a restaurant-technology platform, it said. This would enable Swiggy to leverage Dineout's network of over 50,000 restaurant partners.

RBI appoints Ranjan, Pattanaik as EDs

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Rajiv Ranjan and Sitikantha Pattanaik as Executive Directors with effect from May 1. As Executive Director, Dr. Ranjan would be in charge of the Monetary Policy Department (MPD) while Dr. Pattanaik would take charge of the Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR), the RBI said.

SBI Q4 net rises 41% to ₹9,114 cr. on asset quality improvement

State-run lender's full-year profit surges 55% to ₹31,676 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI) reported a 41.3% jump in fourth-quarter net profit at ₹9,114 crore on the back of a significant improvement in asset quality during the three months ended March 31, 2022.

For the financial year, the state-run lender's net profit grew 55.2% to ₹31,676 crore.

"FY22 was an extraordinary year," Chairman Dinesh Khara said at a press conference. "It is heartening that the bank has been able to deliver reasonably good outcomes in business, profitability and asset quality parameters," he added.

Individual borrowers: SBI said its retail loan portfolio had crossed ₹10 lakh crore in the last quarter. • A. M. FARUQUI

"We have also created sufficient contingency funds against the restructured book to insulate our balance sheet from any future shock," Mr. Khara added. The return on equity as at the end of the fiscal stood at 13.92%, a 398 basis points improvement year-on-year and the bank was now targeting 15% return on equity, he said.

While domestic net interest margin in the fourth quarter rose 29 bps to 3.4%, net interest income for the period rose by 15.3%.

Gross advances for the quarter rose 11% to ₹28,18,671 crore and the retail loan portfolio crossed ₹10 lakh crore. The total deposits grew 10.1%.

During the quarter the bank's loan loss provisions shrank 67.1% to ₹3,262 crore.

In Q4, the bank's Gross Non Performing Asset (GNPA) declined by 11.4% to ₹1,12,023 crore. The Net NPA shrank 24% to ₹27,966 crore.

SBI said its capital adequacy ratio at the end of Q4 was 13.83% and return on assets increased by 19 bps to 0.67%.

Govt. fixes LIC issue price at ₹949 a share

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government has fixed the issue price of LIC shares at ₹949 apiece, the upper end of the IPO price band, ahead of the listing of the country's largest insurer on May 17.

However, LIC policyholders and retail investors have got the shares at a price of ₹889 and ₹904 a piece, respectively.

The Initial Public Offering of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) closed on May 9 and shares were allocated to bidders on May 12.

The government sold 3.5% stake in LIC through the IPO at a price band of ₹902-949 a share.

The share sale fetched the government about ₹20,557 crore.

Exports rose 30.7% in April, imports grew 31%

'FY23 trade deficit may surge to $255 bn'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports in April grew 30.7% year-on-year to $40.19 billion, $2 billion higher than the estimates released earlier this month, Commerce Ministry data showed on Friday.

Goods imports during the month were also $2 billion more than the earlier estimates of $60.3 billion, reflecting a 31% growth.

The trade deficit in April was marginally higher than the previous estimate of $20.1 billion and wider than March's $18.5 billion.

'Export growth to slow'

Rating agency ICRA expects the merchandise trade deficit to expand to an all-time high of $250-255 billion in 2022-23, as exports growth will slow down to about 9% during the year in tandem with global trade flows. Imports, on the other hand, are expected to rise by about 16% with domestic-demand growth expected to outpace external demand.

The increase in exports was led by petroleum products (up 127.7%), electronic goods (71.7%), cereals (60.8%), coffee (59.4%), processed foods (38.8%) and leather products (36.7%), resulting in record merchandise exports for April, the ministry said.

Excluding petroleum and gems and jewellery exports, the growth rate was lower at 19.9%, with outbound shipments worth $28.5 billion.

By contrast, imports, excluding these categories, grew by a much sharper 34.4% from a year earlier to $35.7 billion.

Coal and petroleum imports were higher than earlier estimates – with the former more than doubling to $4.93 billion and the latter jumping 87.5% to about $20.2 billion. The value of fertilizer imports almost trebled to $1.2 billion. The increase in these three import categories reflects the sharp rise in global prices.

"While imports and exports displayed a similar sharp expansion, the merchandise trade deficit widened to $20.1 billion in April 2022, from $15.3 billion in April 2021, driven by oil," noted Aditi Nayar, chief economist at rating agency ICRA. "Total merchandise imports remained above $60 billion for the second month in a row, given the elevated commodity prices after the Russia-Ukraine conflict," she added.

While gold imports fell 72.3% to just $1.7 billion, from $6.2 billion in April 2021, silver imports rose almost tenfold, albeit from a lower base of $11.9 million a year earlier, to $109.5 million in April 2022.

Ms. Nayar expects the rupee to face a depreciating bias and trade between 75 and 79 to a dollar till September. A worsening current account deficit, combined with tighter monetary policy around the world and an aversion to emerging market assets, will put pressure on the rupee.

However, the large forex reserves and the likely stemming of foreign investor outflows from the debt market would contain further depreciation from the recent record low, she said.

Maruti to invest ₹11,000 cr. in new Haryana factory

Plant can make 2.5 lakh vehicles a year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. (MSIL) on Friday said it would invest ₹11,000 crore in the first phase of its new manufacturing facility in Haryana.

The process for allotment of land to Maruti Suzuki by the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. in Sonipat was completed on Friday.

Spread across 800 acres, the upcoming facility at the Industrial Model Township at Kharkhoda would be the largest single site for the company, said Rahul Bharti, executive director, Corporate Affairs, Maruti Suzuki.

The first plant at the site, with a manufacturing capacity of 2,50,000 vehicles per annum, is expected to be commissioned before 2025 subject to administrative approvals, according to a company statement.

The site will have space for three more manufacturing plants in the future, and will have total capacity to make one million vehicles when work is completed.

Vegetable oil imports fell 13% in April

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Imports of vegetable oil, comprising edible and non-edible oil, fell 13% to almost 9.12 lakh tonnes during April due to lower import of crude palm oil, according to industry data.

The Solvent Extractors' Association of India said that import of vegetable oil stood at 9,11,846 tonnes in April 2022 compared with 10,53,347 tonnes in April 2021. The import of edible oil fell to 9,00,085 tonnes from 10,29,912 tonnes, while shipments of non-edible oil declined to 11,761 tonnes from 23,435 tonnes.

Import of crude palm oil in April dropped to 4,14,829 tonnes from 6,89,731 tonnes in the same month last year.

April crude oil imports rise to record: S&P Global

Russian oil logs 5% of seaborne import

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's crude oil imports hit a record high in April, surpassing 4.8 million barrels per day in April, with Russian-origin crude touching 5% of India's total seaborne imports for the first time, S&P Global Market Intelligence said in a report.

Trade data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry pegged petroleum imports in April at about $20.2 billion or 87.5% higher than the $10.7 billion of imports in April 2021

"A rebound in domestic demand as well as stronger oil product exports likely spurred India's crude import volumes," said Yen Ling Song, associate director at S&P Global. "Refiners have been highly attracted to discounts for Russian-origin cargoes and India has been a major alternative destination for Urals crude that would typically have been sold to refiners in Europe," she added.

"As of May 9, almost 10 million barrels of crude loading from Russia have discharged in India this month," S&P Global said.

LIC HFL raises home loan rate by 20-40 bps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

LIC Housing Finance Ltd. (LIC HFL) on Friday raised the interest rate on home loans by 20 basis points (bps) to 6.9%, from 6.7%, for select borrowers.

For borrowers with a CIBIL score of 700 and above, the rate increase has been limited to only 20 bps, LIC Housing Finance said, adding that the revised rates were applicable from Friday.

For customers having CIBIL score less than 700, the maximum increase is 25 basis points (bps). For new-to-credit customers the rate is 40 bps higher.

TechM Q4 net grows 39% to ₹1,506 crore

Revenue increases 24.5% to ₹12,116 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Tech Mahindra (TechM) said consolidated net profit grew 39% year-on-year to ₹1,506 crore for the March quarter.

Fourth-quarter revenue rose 24.5% to ₹12,116 crore.

For the full year FY22, the tech services firm's net profit increased 25.7% to ₹5,566 crore. Revenue for the fiscal climbed 17.9% to ₹44,646 crore.

Addressing a hybrid-media conference on Friday, Tech Mahindra managing director and chief executive officer C.P. Gurnani said: "Tech Mahindra's commitment towards sustainable digital transformation and investment in new-age technology stacks has resulted in one of the highest growth [rates] with large-deal wins over the last seven years".

C.P. Gurnani

In FY22, the company hired more than 10,000 freshers.

Tesla said to pause India plan on tariffs

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

Tesla Inc. has put on hold plans to sell electric cars in India, abandoned a search for showroom space, and reassigned some of its domestic team after failing to secure lower import taxes, three people familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The decision caps more than a year of deadlocked talks with government representatives as Elon Musk's Tesla sought to first test demand by selling electric vehicles (EVs) imported from production hubs in the United States and China, at lower tariffs.

TII to foray into medical devices, electronic items

Firm to enter energy products, too

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Profit after tax rose to ₹136 crore for the March quarter, from ₹129 crore

Tube Investments of India Ltd. (TII) plans to enter new business segments such as medical devices and instruments, electronic products and components, and energy-related products.

The company's board on Thursday gave its nod, subject to shareholders' approval, for the insertion of three new sub-clauses in the memorandum of association to enable the company to engage in the businesses, according to a statement.

Last year, TII announced its entry into the electric mobility segment, with a focus on electric three-wheelers. It also acquired electric tractor start-up Cellestial E-Mobility in January.

TII said profit after tax rose to ₹136 crore for the quarter ended March 31 compared with ₹129 crore a year earlier. Revenue from operations grew to ₹1,629 crore from ₹1,396 crore.

For FY22, net profit grew to ₹475 crore from ₹273 crore. Revenue was higher at ₹5,987 crore as against ₹4,026 crore.

Union Bank Q4 profit rises 23% on stake sale

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Union Bank of India on Friday reported a 22.7% jump in consolidated net profit to ₹1,557.09 crore for the March quarter, aided by a ₹627-crore gain via stake sale in its insurance arm, and benefits through low cost of deposits.

On a standalone basis, Union Bank posted 8.26% growth in net profit to ₹1,440 crore. It ended FY22 with a 80% jump in PAT to ₹5,232 crore. Core net interest income grew 25.3% to ₹6,769 crore on the back of 9.6% growth in advances. Net interest margin widened by 0.38% to 2.75%.

SPORT

Injury forces Rupinder out of Asia Cup

Birendra Lakra to lead the team

HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU

The Indian men's hockey team was dealt a big blow on Friday as captain Rupinder Pal Singh was ruled of the upcoming men's Asia Cup due to a wrist injury.

Ace drag-flicker Rupinder, who came out of retirement, injured his wrist during a training session, according to Hockey India.

Sanjeep Xess in

Birendra Lakra, who was named Rupinder's deputy, will lead the side while striker S.V. Sunil was named the vice-captain of the 20-member squad. Rupinder has been replaced by Nilam Sanjeep Xess.

The Asia Cup starts on May 23 in Jakarta and India is the defending champion.

Rupinder. • FILE PHOTO

"It is unfortunate that Rupinder has picked up an injury during training and will not be a part of the Asia Cup. Both Birendra and Sunil are vastly experienced and have been part of the leadership group for many years now," coach B.J. Karappa said.

Three Indians in TVS' 16-rider squad

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

TVS Racing, the factory racing team of TVS Motor Company, has announced three Indians as part of its 16-rider squad that will compete in the TVS Asia One Make Championship. The championship will have four rounds and will run as a support race for the Asian Road Racing Championship.

Jagan Kumar, K.Y. Ahmed and Deepak will join 13 others from countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, Thailand, Philippines, Singapore and Japan. TVS Asia One Make Championship will use the manufacturer's flagship motorcycle – TVS Apache RR 310. The first round will be held at the Sepang International Circuit in Malaysia from May 27-29.

Spurs outshoot Gunners, remain in Champions League race

Benzema nets in 6-0 rout of Levante, pulls level with Raul as Real Madrid's second-highest scorer

Dazzling duo: Kane and Son were on target in Tottenham's clinical win against Arsenal. • REUTERS

EURO LEAGUES

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Tottenham revived its hopes of beating Arsenal to the final Champions League qualification spot by overwhelming its north London rival in a 3-0 win in the Premier League on Thursday.

Harry Kane scored twice – including one from the penalty spot – and Son Heungmin netted the other just after half-time to move Tottenham one point behind fourth-placed Arsenal, which had centre-back Rob Holding sent off in the 33rd minute with the score 1-0.

Arsenal was responsible for its own downfall, with full-back Cedric Soares barging into Son at the back post for the penalty that Kane rolled into the corner in the 22nd minute.

Holding, already booked for pulling back Son, opted to stick out an elbow to block off the South Korea forward rather than track his run following Eric Dier's ball over the top of the Arsenal defence.

Holding connected with the face of Son, who slumped to the ground, and was shown a second yellow card in the 33rd.

Arsenal further behind soon. Son swung over a corner from the right, Rodrigo Bentancur headed the ball towards goal, and Kane headed home. Son moved one goal behind Liverpool's Mohamed Salah in the race for the league's top scorer by curling home the third goal from inside the area in the 47th after Kane had been tackled just as he was about to shoot on the turn.

At Madrid, Karim Benzema drew level with Real Madrid great Raul as the Spanish giant's second-highest goalscorer by netting his 323rd goal for the club in a 6-0 thrashing of Levante.

The French striker headed home Real's second goal against Levante at the Santiago Bernabeu to reach the mark. Cristiano Ronaldo remains well clear at the top of Madrid's all-time chart with 451.

Benzema has now scored 44 times in as many appearances this season.

The results:

Premier League: Tottenham 3 (Kane 22-pen & 37, Son 47) bt Arsenal 0.

La Liga: Real Sociedad 3 (Sorloth 19, Januzaj 53-pen, Portu 90+7-pen) bt Cadiz 0; Rayo Vallecano 1 (Guardiola 21) lost to Villarreal 5 (Pedraza 3, 88, Foyth 27, Alcacer 38, Torres 45+1); Real Madrid 6 (Mendy 13, Benzema 19, Rodrygo 34, Vinicius Junior 45, 68, 83) bt Levante 0.

Lion-hearted Prannoy propels India into the summit clash

Srikanth and Satwiksairaj-Chirag duo also register remarkable wins to puncture former champion Denmark's hopes in an edge-of-the-seat thriller

Sensational show: Prannoy, despite an injury scare, gave it his all in the decider against Gemke after Satwik-Chirag had levelled the contest and Srikanth had put India 2-1 ahead. • BADMINTONPHOTO/COURTESY OF BWF

THOMAS CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BANGKOK

H.S. Prannoy produced a gritty effort in the decisive fifth match as the Indian men's badminton team scripted history by reaching the title clash of the Thomas Cup for the first time ever, with a 3-2 victory over Denmark in an edge-of-the-seat semifinal, here on Friday.

The Indian team, which had never gone past the semifinals after 1979, showed tremendous fighting spirit as it came from a match down to outwit the 2016 champion.

While World Championships silver medallist K. Srikanth and the World No. 8 doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty kept India in the hunt, it was once again left to Prannoy to take the team home with the tie was locked 2-2.

Medical timeout

Up against World No. 13 Rasmus Gemke, Prannoy suffered an ankle injury after slipping on the front court while going for a return but continued after taking a medical timeout.

He looked in pain and his on-court movement also looked restricted but despite all odds, he produced a sensational performance to come up trumps 13-21, 21-9, 21-12 to etch India's name in the history books.

India will now take on 14-time champion Indonesia, the most successful team in the history, for the honours. Indonesia edged out Japan 3-2 in the other semifinal.

It was always going to be an uphill task for India to tame a formidable Denmark, which had been the first European country to secure the title in 2016.

Lakshya loses

A lot rode on World championship bronze medallist Lakshya Sen, given his recent win over Viktor Axelsen at the German Open Super 300 but he couldn't replicate his performance as the World No.1 scripted a comfortable 21-13, 21-13 win to hand Denmark a 1-0 lead.

Denmark decided to split its World No. 9 pair of Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen into two halves with Astrup partnering Mathias Christiansen in the first doubles.

Satwiksairaj and Chirag held their nerve in the final stages to beat Kim Astrup and Mathias Christiansen 21-18, 21-23, 22-20 to bring India back into the contest.

With the tie locked 1-1, World No. 11 Srikanth and World No. 3 Anders Antonsen engaged in a battle of supremacy in the second singles with the former coming out on top with 21-18, 12-21, 21-15 result to give India a 2-1 lead. India's second doubles combination of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala, however, lost to Anders Skaarup Rasmussen and Frederik Sogaard, losing 14-21, 13-21.

Roaring back

In the decisive match, Prannoy lost the opening game but, despite an injury took a 11-1 lead in the second. He depended more on his attack to gather points even as Gemke failed to create pressure on the Indian. Prannoy dominated the front court and soon roared back into contest with Gemke committing too many errors. Prannoy, ranked 23rd, stamped his authority with his trademark smashes as Gemke's defence lay in tatters. The Indian was up 11-4 up at the interval and continued to dominate the proceedings.

With the Impact Arena reverberating with chants of "HSP", Prannoy grabbed nine match points with a straight down the line smash and sealed the match on the second opportunity.

The results (semifinals):

Thomas Cup: India bt Denmark 3-2 [Lakshya Sen lost to Viktor Axelsen 13-21, 13-21; Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Kim Astrup & Mathias Christiansen 21-18, 21-23, 22-20; K. Srikanth bt Anders Antonsen 21-18, 12-21, 21-15; Krishna Prasad Garaga & Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala lost to Anders Skaarup Rasmussen & Frederik Sogaard 14-21, 13-21; H.S. Prannoy bt Rasmus Gemke 13-21, 21-9, 21-12].

Indonesia bt Japan 3-2.

Uber Cup: China bt Thailand 3-0; Korea bt Japan 3-0.

Bairstow-Livingstone show keeps Kings in the playoffs hunt

Riding on their quickfire knocks, Punjab makes a mammoth 209; the bowlers, led by Rabada, stifle Royal Challengers' chase

IPL 2022

AYAN ACHARYA
MUMBAI

Punjab Kings stayed alive in the IPL 2022 playoffs race with a 54-run win over the Royal Challengers Bangalore at the Brabourne Stadium on Friday.

Chasing a target of 210, Royal Challengers began confidently. Virat Kohli's poor form has continued for so long that a push for single off the first ball drew big cheers from the crowd. The noise levels subsequently rose to a crescendo as Kohli smashed two fours and a six.

But the celebrations were shortlived as Kohli was caught off the bowling of Kagiso Rabada in the fourth over. Though ruled not out initially, the decision was overturned on review. Rishi Dhawan then struck twice in his first over, removing Faf du Plessis and Mahipal Lomror.

With Royal Challengers at 44 for three in six overs, Glenn Maxwell (35, 22b, 3x4, 1x6) and Rajat Patidar (26, 21b, 1x4, 2x6) took on Rahul Chahar, plundering 18 off the spinner's first over. The two brought up their fifty partnership off 29 balls. But Chahar and Harpreet Singh dismissed Patidar and Maxwell in successive overs.

When Dinesh Karthik arrived at the crease, there were hopes of a late Royal Challengers flourish. But with 92 needed, Arshdeep Singh bowled a brilliant 15th over to send back Dinesh Karthik and put the contest beyond the Bengaluru side's reach.

Blitz: Bairstow and Livingstone tore apart the Royal Challengers attack. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Earlier, Jonny Bairstow (66, 29b, 4x4, 7x6) and Liam Livingstone (70, 42b, 5x4, 4x6) catapulted Kings to 209 for nine.

Kings have the second-best run rate of 9.12 among all teams in the PowerPlay so far. Openers Jonny Bairstow and Shikhar Dhawan showed why with a rousing start.

Maxwell opened the bowling and Bairstow lofted him down the ground for six. He then punished Josh Hazlewood (4-0-64-0), slamming two sixes and two fours in his first over. As good as he has been this IPL, the Aussie has gone wicketless while going at a touch over 11 in the previous games at this venue.

Mohammad Siraj wasn't spared either. In a 23-run sixth over, Bairstow hit three sixes and a four while racking up a 21-ball 50. He was eventually caught off Shahbaz Ahmed's bowling.

Royal Challengers kept things quiet between overs 9 and 11, but Livingstone's 51-run stand with Mayank Agarwal ensured that the innings didn't lose momentum.

Livingstone tore into Hazlewood, hitting him for two fours and two sixes as 24 came off the 19th over. Though the Englishman was caught by Karthik off Harshal Patel (four for 34) in the final over, the Bairstow-Livingstone show had sealed Royal Challengers' fate.

SCOREBOARD

PUNJAB KINGS

Jonny Bairstow c Siraj b Shahbaz 66 *(29b, 4x4, 7x6)*, Shikhar Dhawan b Maxwell 21 *(15b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Bhanuka Rajapaksa c Harshal b Hasaranga 1 *(3b)*, Liam Livingstone c Karthik b Harshal 70 (42b, 5x4, 4x6), Mayank Agarwal c Hasaranga b Harshal 19 *(16b, 3x4)*, Jitesh Sharma b Hasaranga 9 *(5b, 2x4)*, Harpreet Brar c Karthik b Harshal 7 *(5b, 1x6)*, Rishi Dhawan c Maxwell b Harshal 7 *(3b, 1x6)*, Rahul Chahar run out 2 *(2b)*, Kagiso Rabada (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-3, w-3, nb-1): 7; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 209.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-60 (Shikhar Dhawan, 4.6 overs), 2-85 (Rajapaksa, 6.4), 3-101 (Bairstow, 9.1), 4-152 (Mayank, 14.6), 5-164 (Jitesh, 16.2), 6-173 (Harpreet, 17.3), 7-206 (Livingstone, 19.2), 8-207 (Rishi Dhawan, 19.4), 9-209 (Rahul Chahar, 19.6).

RCB BOWLING

Maxwell 2-0-17-1, Hazlewood 4-0-64-0, Siraj 2-0-36-0, Hasaranga 4-0-15-2, Shahbaz 4-0-40-1, Harshal 4-0-34-4.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Virat Kohli c Rahul Chahar b Rabada 20 *(14b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Faf du Plessis c Jitesh b Rishi Dhawan 10 *(8b, 2x4)*, Rajat Patidar c Shikhar Dhawan b Rahul Chahar 26 *(21b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Mahipal Lomror c Shikhar Dhawan b Rishi Dhawan 6 *(3b, 1x6)*, Glenn Maxwell c Arshdeep b Harpreet 35 *(22b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Dinesh Karthik c Rajapaksa b Arshdeep 11 *(11b, 1x4)*, Shahbaz Ahmed c Rajapaksa b Rabada 9 *(14b)*, Harshal Patel c Mayank b Rabada 11 *(7b, 2x4)*, Wanindu Hasaranga c Harpreet b Rahul Chahar 1 *(3b)*, Mohd. Siraj (not out) 9 *(13b, 1x4)*, Josh Hazlewood (not out) 7 *(4b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-1, w-9): 10; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 155.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-33 (Kohli, 3.2), 2-34 (du Plessis, 4.2), 3-40 (Lomror, 4.5), 4-104 (Patidar, 10.6), 5-104 (Maxwell, 11.2), 6-120 (Karthik, 14.5), 7-124 (Shahbaz, 15.4), 8-137 (Hasaranga, 16.4), 9-142 (Harshal, 18.1).

PUNJAB KINGS BOWLING

Harpreet 4-0-33-1, Arshdeep 4-0-27-1, Rabada 4-0-21-3, Rishi Dhawan 4-0-36-2, Rahul Chahar 4-0-37-2.

Toss: RCB; **MoM:** Bairstow.
Punjab Kings won by 54 runs.

Innings scan

PBKS		RCB
41	Dots	50
16	Fours	13
14	Sixes	5
83/1	PP	44/3
10.45	RR	7.75

Next assignment

PBKS: May 16 vs. **DC**
DY Patil, 7.30 p.m.

RCB: May 19 vs. **GT**
Wankhede, 7.30 p.m.

Win-at-all costs match for KKR, SRH

Knight Riders lose Cummins to injury

AMOL KARHADKAR
PUNE

A win may not be enough, but a loss will certainly spell doom. This will be the scenario for both Kolkata Knight Riders as well as Sunrisers Hyderabad on Saturday. It will also be the Knight Riders' penultimate game of the season.

Shreyas Iyer's boys know that in order to prolong Brendon McCullum's stint as head coach by a week, they have to win both remaining games and hope for other results to go their way.

Just when the Knight Riders appeared to have finally struck the right team balance, they need to find a suitable replacement for Pat Cummins, who has returned home following a hip injury. An MRI scan earlier in the week revealed he required at least two weeks' rehabilitation.

Sunrisers Hyderabad, on the other hand, is in a slightly better position on paper. With three games in hand, they will not be technically out of contention despite a loss. But its four-match losing streak has undone the advantage gained by an unbeaten five-match run earlier

As a result, Kane Williamson & Co. will be desperate to return to winning ways. The onus will be on the captain to find form.

TODAY'S MATCH

KKR vs. SRH
MCA STADIUM, 7.30 P.M.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 22
KKR 14 | SRH 8

PREVIOUS MEETING
SRH won by seven wickets, 2022

STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Gujarat Titans (Q)	12	9	3	18	0.376
Lucknow Super Giants	12	8	4	16	0.385
Rajasthan Royals	12	7	5	14	0.228
Royal Challengers Bangalore	13	7	6	14	-0.323
Delhi Capitals	12	6	6	12	0.210
Punjab Kings	12	6	6	12	0.023
Sunrisers Hyderabad	11	5	6	10	-0.031
Kolkata Knight Riders	12	5	7	10	-0.057
Chennai Super Kings (E)	12	4	8	8	-0.181
Mumbai Indians (E)	12	3	9	6	-0.613

After the RCB-PBKS match on May 13 — *Q: Qualified; E: Eliminated*

Pooja advances; Lovlina bows out

Former blanks Nagy in pre-quarters, latter loses to Ngamba

BOXING WORLDS

SPORTS BUREAU

Two-time Asian champion Pooja Rani Bohra made a winning start to enter the quarterfinals, but Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain crashed out of the World women's boxing championships at Istanbul on Friday.

Pooja posted a convincing 5-0 victory against experienced Hungarian boxer and former Worlds bronze medallist Timea Nagy in an 81kg pre-quarterfinal bout.

Lovlina was ousted by Cindy Winner Djankeu Ngamba, a promising Cameroon-born United Kingdom boxer representing the Fair Chance Team as she does not have a British passport, with a 4-1 verdict in a 70kg round-of-16 match.

Pooja. • TWITTER@BFI_OFFICIAL

Southpaw Pooja, also an Olympian, moved better to land punches on the giant Hungarian. She did well to stay out of Timea's reach.

Lovlina, a two-time Worlds bronze medallist, found the going tough against the compact Cindy.

While the Indian used her long reach to execute the left jabs and combinations, her shorter opponent delivered solid straight punches to stay 4-1 ahead in the first round.

Cindy employed her jabs and combinations well against Lovlina's counterattack and was 3-2 up after the second round. She continued to land clean scoring shots to maintain her upper hand till the end.

The results:

Pre-quarterfinals: 70kg: Cindy Winner Djankeu Ngamba (FCT) bt Lovlina Borgohain 4-1; **81kg:** Pooja Rani Bohra bt Timea Nagy (Hun) 5-0.

Tsitsipas sees off Sinner, runs into Zverev in semifinals

Shapovalov ends Nadal's campaign; Sania-Hradecka duo moves into the semifinals

ITALIAN OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ROME

Stefanos Tsitsipas reached the semifinals of the Italian Open on Friday beating local hero Jannick Sinner 7-6(5) 6-2 in a match which was stopped for over 10 minutes at match point after a spectator fell ill.

World No. 5 Tsitsipas has already won the Monte Carlo Masters this season and reached the last four in impressive style against Italian Sinner, who was in his first ever Rome quarterfinal.

Tsitsipas will face Alexander Zverev, who made the semifinals after comfortably seeing off Cristian Garin, the only unseeded player left in the tournament, 7-5, 6-2.

Late on Thursday, Rafael Nadal crashed out in the third round after falling to a shock 1-6, 7-5, 6-2 defeat at the hands of Denis Shapovalov. Shapovalov, however, lost to Casper Ruud in the quarterfinals.

Sabalenka vs Swiatek

Aryna Sabalenka reached the women's semifinals with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 win over Amanda Anisimova to set up a clash with World No. 1 Iga Swiatek, who defeated Bianca Andreescu 7-6(2), 6-0.

Third seed Sabalenka defeated American Anisimova for the first time in five attempts. The latter had ended Sabalenka's Madrid title defence in the first round at the end of last month. Swiatek, the reigning champion in Rome, has registered 26 successive wins and is gunning for a fifth title in a row.

In the doubles quarterfinals, Sania Mirza and her Czech partner Lucie Hradecka, the sixth seeds, overcame the fourth-seeded Slovenia-Chile pair of Andreja Klepac and Alexa Guarachi 6-4, 4-6, [10-8].

The results: Men: Quarterfinals: Tsitsipas bt Sinner 7-6(5), 6-2; Zverev bt Garin 7-5, 6-2; Ruud bt Shapovalov 7-6(7), 7-5; **Third round:** Shapovalov bt Nadal 1-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Women (quarterfinals): Swiatek bt Andreescu 7-6(2), 6-0; Sabalenka bt Anisimova 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; Jabeur bt Sakkari 1-6, 7-5, 6-1.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Sania & Hradecka bt Klepac & Guarachi 6-4, 4-6, [10-8].

In the zone: Zverev was in complete control in his quarterfinal match against Garin. • REUTERS

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: Thomas & Uber Cup, Sports 18 & Voot Select, 11.30 a.m.
Serie A: Sports 18, Voot Select, Vh1 & Jio TV, 6.30 p.m., 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Sunday)
IPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 7 p.m. & 9 p.m.
FA Cup 2022 (final): Sony Ten 2 & 3 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 9.30 p.m.
La Liga: Sports 18, Voot Select, MTV & Jio TV, 10 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Heat dumps Sixers to reach NBA East finals

LOS ANGELES

Miami Heat punched its ticket to the NBA's Eastern Conference finals with a 99-90 victory over Philadelphia 76ers on Thursday even as Dallas Mavericks staved off elimination in the West. Jimmy Butler scored 32 points for Heat against his former team.

The results: EC: Philadelphia 90 lost to Miami 99 (Miami wins series 4-2). **WC:** Dallas 113 bt Phoenix 86 (Series 3-3). AFP

ROUND-UP

Big win for Bangalore Gunners

BENGALURU

Bangalore Gunners FC blanked Postal Department FC 4-0 in the BDFA 'A' division football league here on Friday.

The results: 'A' division: South United FC 0 drew with AGORC FC 0; Bangalore Gunners FC 4 (Cyril Justin 13, 35, Tamilarasu 42, 63) bt Postal Department FC 0.

Six Cricket Academy in final

Six Cricket Academy defeated PESCA by 16 runs to enter the final of the Tiger Cup under-14 cricket tournament here.

The scores: Under-14: Semifinals: Six Cricket Academy 187/9 in 30 overs (P. Rithesh 61, Shaurya Murali 31, Abhinav Nag 3/37) bt PESCA 171/3 in 30 overs (Sharvesh 100, Adhrit Rao 25); SRCA 78 in 23.1 overs lost to Gopalan Sports Centre 81/2 in 14.2 overs (Kush Kumar 31).

Confusion and instability derailed CSK

Mega-auction mess-up left defending champion with an ageing outfit

IPL 2022

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings' failure to seal a play-off spot underlined the harsh truth that the defending IPL champion lacked the quality needed to pull it through the tough, bruising encounters.

Drama, confusion and instability derailed CSK's season.

What went wrong? Fleming and Dhoni seem to have a lot on their mind. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Drama

First, M.S. Dhoni resigned from captaincy without a hint, Ravindra Jadeja, the new skipper fumbled in his new role and was a shadow of his former self as an explosive all-rounder, and Dhoni was brought back. Simply put, things went horribly wrong.

The mess-up at the mega-auction where CSK missed several chances to build a team and spent crores on Ambati Rayudu, Robin Uthappa and Dwayne Bravo, whose best days are perhaps behind them, meant the Chennai franchise was left with an ageing team in a format that had got quicker, slicker with a lot more gunpowder and with teams having multiple match-winners.

CSK blew a fortune on incisive swing bowler Deepak Chahar who was subsequently ruled out with fitness concerns,

Worse, CSK's domestic pacemen lacked experience and the pacey but injury-prone Kiwi Adam Milne lasted just one game.

At the auction, CSK blundered, letting go of the immaculate and run-denying seam bowler, Josh Hazlewood, and replacing him with Chris Jordan, someone with a reputation for leaking runs in the IPL.

Without domestic pacemen of quality [it was only in the later stages that left-arm seamer Mukesh Chowdhary showed a marked improvement with nip and movement] and an average foreign pace back-up, Chennai struggled.

CSK's strength is its opening partnership. But by releasing Faf du Plessis [he had forged a wonderful combination with Ruturaj Gaikwad] and not buying him back, CSK not only broke a rollicking opening combination but also lost someone who could have made an excellent captain.

However, CSK did well to buy the classy Devon Conway for just ₹1 crore, but was unable to play him after just one game because it needed foreign players to shore up its bowling.

When Conway [231 runs in five games at 57.75, SR 154.00] finally returned to the side, he was batting at another level. The southpaw is an impact player.

Mahesh Theekshana bowled his assorted spin with control but neither Jadeja nor Moeen Ali could maintain form.

Wanted reliable men

What CSK needed from its cricketers, whether it was the fleet-footed Ruturaj or the heavy-hitting Shivam Dube, was greater reliability. The same with old warhorses Rayudu and Uthappa.

CSK needs to look ahead and build a team with Ruturaj, Conway, Dube, Mukesh, Theekshana and Jadeja with a still-fit Dhoni leading the side.

The admirable Dhoni, defying age, whipped up magic to steal a game or two, but CSK needed consistency, not miracles.

Gokulam, Sporting fight for title

Kerala team banks on fine record, local club on fan support

I-LEAGUE

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Defending champion Gokulam Kerala seems to have come under huge pressure just when it seemed it would become the first team in I-League history to win back-to-back crowns.

The 3-1 loss to Sreenidi Deccan in the penultimate round tarnished the Kozhikode-based club's incredible record of 21 unbeaten matches.

Gokulam will have to put that setback behind it against a rejuvenated Mohammedan Sporting. The Kolkata club suddenly eyes the possibility of winning its maiden I-League crown.

I-League regulations take into account head-to-head score in case of a points tie. Mohammedan Sporting is second with 37 points and will benefit from this provision if it beats Gokulam (40 points).

The teams played out a 1-1 draw in the first phase and Mohammedan Sporting will count on partisan home support to swing the result in its favour.

The concluding league match having turned into a knockout final, the organisers have scheduled it at the giant Salt Lake Stadium, which can accommodate around 70,000 spectators.

Statistically, Gokulam is still the favourite as it needs just a point to retain the crown.

Its Italian head coach Vincenzo Alberto Annese, who will be missing the services of two key players in Afghan midfielder Sharif Mohammad and forward M.S. Jithin owing to suspension, hoped his players would be adequately charged up.

Fighting spirit

"We will be playing in front of almost 40,000 supporters, for that we need the fighting spirit in the proper measure," Annese said on the eve of the match.

"This is football. Anybody can win or lose in a minute. Now we have the chance to win the title and our fans are excited about it.

"It is good for Indian football. Two good teams will fight for the title," Mohammedan Sporting's Russian coach Andrey Chernyshov said.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

This is football. Anybody can win or lose in a minute.
CHERNYSHOV
Sporting coach

Odisha makes the last eight

SPORTS BUREAU

Odisha registered a 8-0 win against Himachal Pradesh in a Pool H playoff to become the eighth and final quarterfinalist at the 12th Hockey India Senior women's National championship in Bhopal on Friday.

With both teams unbeaten, it was a winner-takes-all game and Dipti Lakra's hat-trick helped Odisha win easily. Rojita Kujur struck a brace for the winner as Himachal finished second.

The results: Pool H: Odisha 8 (Dipti Lakra 3, Rojita Kujur 2, Bimla Barwa, Janhabi Pradhan, Punam Barla) bt Himachal 0; Kerala 8 (Anju Shaji 2, Swetha 2, Reshma, Aiswarya, Ashika, Athira Prasad Shylaja) bt Telangana 0.

Saturday's quarterfinal line-up: Maharashtra vs. Jharkhand, Haryana vs. Uttar Pradesh, Punjab vs. Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh vs. Odisha.

Joshna, Ramit advance

SPORTS BUREAU

India's Ramit Tandon and Joshna Chinappa won their first round matches at the PSA World squash championships in Cairo on Friday.

The results: Men: Ramit Tandon bt Christopher Gordon (USA) 11-4, 11-4, 11-6; **Women:** Joshna Chinappa bt Katie Malliff (Eng) 11-6, 11-8, 11-9.

India teams win four gold medals

They take the honours in both rifle and pistol sections

SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU

India beat Spain, Korea, Uzbekistan, and Georgia in the finals to bag gold medals in rifle and pistol for men and women at the junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany.

India is on top of the medals table with eight gold and six silver. Two more medals were assured as the Indian trap teams made the gold medal match in both the sections.

However, in individual trap, only Sabeera Haris managed to qualify for the second stage of top eight shooters in junior women's event. She lost the shoot-off to the eventual fourth-placed Marika Patera of Italy after the two tied on 17.

Preeti Rajak (109) and Aadya Tripathi (105) placed 14th and 22nd respectively.

In junior men's trap, Arya Tyagi and Vivaan Kapoor shot 118, but missed the chance to fight for medals, even though the score had made the cut for top-eight. Shardul Vihan (117) and Shapath Bhardwaj (115) placed 12th and 17th respectively.

The results: Air rifle: Men: 1. India (Paarth Makhija, Umamahesh Maddineni, Rudrankksh Patil) 16 (627.9) 940.9; 2. Spain (Jesus Oviedo, Adrian Diaz, Jorge Estevez Solorzano) 8 (622.1) 934.2; 3. Norway 16 (620.6) 930.9; 4. Italy 14 (621.7) 934.4.

Women: 1. India (Arya Borse, Zeena Khitta, Ramita) 17 (625.0) 941.8; 2. Korea (An Yeun, Kwon Eunji, Jang Jeongin) 9 (316.2) 935.8; 3. Italy 16 (312.7) 938.5; 4. Poland 10 (311.9) 939.3.

Air pistol: Men: 1. India (Sarabjot Singh, Shiva Narwal, Saurabh Chaudhary) 17 (579) 869; 2. Uzbekistan (Mukhammad Kamalov, Veniamin Nikitin, Umidbek Komolbekov) 9 (573) 840; 3. Italy 16 (564) 859; 4. Germany 12 (563) 842.

Women: 1. India (Manu Bhaker, Palak, Esha Singh) 16 (582) 862; 2. Georgia (Salome Prodiashvili, Mariam Abramishvili, Mariami Prodiashvili) 8 (557) 857; 3. Germany 17 (554) 831; 4. Britain 15 (554) 822.

SNAPSHOTS

Zambia calls off football friendly against India

NEW DELHI

The Football Association of Zambia has written to the All India Football Federation saying it "regrets" inability to play the friendly match against India in Doha scheduled on May 25 owing to unavailability of players. AGENCIES

Amir Khan hangs up his boxing gloves

LONDON

Former World champion Amir Khan announced on Friday he was retiring from boxing after a 17-year professional career. The 35-year-old British fighter, who became the unified World champion in the light-welterweight category, hangs up his gloves with a record of 34 wins from 40 fights. AFP

Drama at the bottom of La Liga

Five teams fight to avoid relegation in Spanish league

FOOTBALL

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BARCELONA

With the top spots in La Liga almost completely decided, the drama is at the bottom of the standings.

Five teams – Getafe, Granada, Cadiz, Mallorca and Alaves – are all trying to avoid finishing in the 18th and 19th places and joining Levante – already assured of relegation – in the second division next season.

Mallorca and Alaves are currently in the bottom three and need to overhaul rivals over their final two games to stay up. All the matches with any implications in standings will be played at the same time on Sunday.

Masterly touch: Flores has turned things around for Getafe, which is in the best position among the desperate bunch. • REUTERS

Getafe enters the penultimate round in the best position of the desperate bunch. The team needs only one point from its remaining two games.

Getafe first faces a tough test at home against a Barcelona team that is still looking to lock up a second-place finish.